



# MASSACHUSETTS GUIDE

Hunting, Freshwater Fishing, and Trapping Laws

2017





# Classic Design, Rugged Durability



# RUGER®

®  
**KITTERY TRADING POST**



#### RUGER AMERICAN RIFLE®

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An outdoorsman revolver for hunting big game. Triple-locking cylinder locked into frame for more positive alignment and dependable operation shot after shot.



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**BE SAFE, BE SEEN -****GET YOUR ORANGE ON**

Photo © Sharon Imig

**ALL outdoor users** who are in the field during hunting seasons are encouraged to wear "blaze orange" to increase their visibility. See page 22 for "blaze orange" requirements.

**Learn more at** [mass.gov/dfw/blaze-orange](http://mass.gov/dfw/blaze-orange)

**NEW FOR 2017**

- Migratory game bird seasons and bag limits are now set in the Spring (see page 34 for regulations).
- Federal Migratory Game Bird Stamps may be purchased online through MassFishHunt ([mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt)) when purchasing your hunting license and state waterfowl stamp. (See page 9.)
- Learn to Hunt and Explore Archery and Bowhunting Programs provide unique opportunities for new hunters and archers to gain important knowledge and skills (see page 47).

**Have a question?**

Visit [mass.gov/masswildlife](http://mass.gov/masswildlife),  
or [facebook.com/masswildlife](https://facebook.com/masswildlife)  
or e-mail us at [mass.wildlife@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.wildlife@state.ma.us)

**On the Cover**

The eastern coyote is well established throughout Massachusetts except on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. A medium-sized predator, it is an opportunistic feeder and extraordinarily adaptable to a wide range of habitats. Coyotes thrive in suburban/urban as well as rural areas. They will eat whatever food is naturally available, including small animals, birds, insects and fruits, as well as artificial sources such as garbage, pet food, birdseed, and compost.

Photo © Bill Bryne/Eastern Coyote

Inset Photos © Troy Gipps/Rabbit Hunter, Dean Cerrati/Largemouth Bass







MASSWILDLIFE

**COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS**

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Karyn Polito, Lieutenant Governor

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

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Jack Buckley, Director

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**Visit MassWildlife online at**

[mass.gov/masswildlife](http://mass.gov/masswildlife)  
[facebook.com/masswildlife](https://facebook.com/masswildlife)

**GENERAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

This past year, MassWildlife invested a significant effort in the celebration of our 150th anniversary. It was gratifying to our staff when over 1,000 people, young and old, visited our Field Headquarters on June 4th to celebrate our anniversary. The event was an opportunity for staff to highlight MassWildlife's diverse programs from archery for kids to black bear research to butterflies. The day was so successful we are planning a similar event for next year. The party is over and as the year turns I want to focus on a number of exciting programs and initiatives of interest to sportsmen and women that are a priority in the upcoming year.



Directly impacting our ability to deliver high quality recreational trout fishing is a water pipeline under construction that will provide gravity-fed, consistently cold water from the Quabbin Reservoir to the McLaughlin Hatchery in Belchertown. Although a significant investment of angler's dollars, when completed in 2017, this project will produce long-term benefits through reduction of energy costs, establishment of a long-term stable water source for the hatchery, and result in an improvement in the quality of stocked trout. I would note that this project would not have been possible without support from Governor Charlie Baker, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matt Beaton, and Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Executive Director Fred Laskey. As with any sound investment, this project will pay dividends for decades.

With the increasing time demands of our society, we recognize the need to provide up-to-date information to hunters and anglers. To that end, during the 2016 trout stocking season we launched a new web-based tool for trout anglers that provides daily online trout stocking reports. The feedback has been positive and I encourage you to check out the new tool during the spring trout stocking season at [mass.gov/trout](http://mass.gov/trout).

Making improvements to the Hunter Education program continues to be a focus of the agency. Our goal is to make hunter education easily accessible and convenient without a wait to sign up for a course. Over the past year new Hunter Education staff members were hired to provide enhancements to the program. The primary objectives of these staff are to schedule, plan and conduct Basic Hunter Education courses across the state, particularly in low service areas, as well as to conduct other courses that are developed and administered by the program.

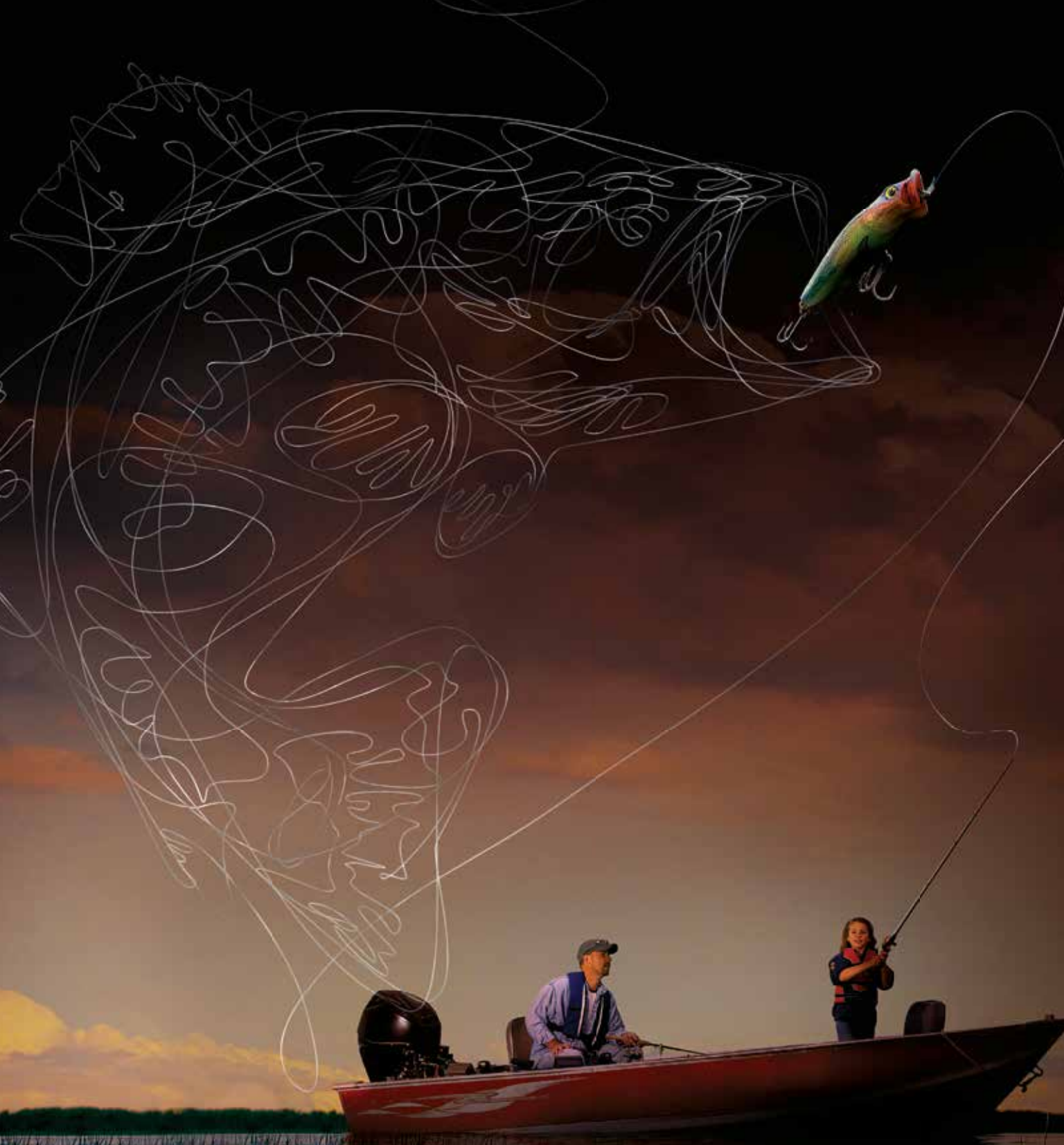
In 2016, the Hunter Education Program staff concentrated solely on: 1) increasing the number of Basic Hunter Education Courses being offered in underserved areas of the state such as Boston and Springfield, and 2) increasing the number of participating students. This past year, 94 Basic Hunter Education courses were held across the state, a 14.6% increase over the previous year. A total of 3,952 students participated in the basic course representing a nearly 6% increase in attendance.

MassWildlife is implementing the Learn to Hunt Program assisting new Hunter Education graduates in the transition from the classroom to the field. Designed for adult Basic Hunter Education graduates with little or no hunting experience, participants can sign up for a one-day clinic or a 3-day in-depth workshop. Classroom and outdoor exercises help new hunters learn more about the skills and techniques used to hunt different game animals. Taught by Division staff and volunteers from sporting clubs and related organizations, the Learn to Hunt Program utilizes the experience and knowledge of seasoned sportsmen and women. In the first year of this new program, 321 hunters participated.

We are expanding programs in archery and recreational shooting. For those interested, the Explore Archery program was developed. This program was created to promote a lifelong interest and participation in the sport of archery to participants of all ages.

**Continued on page 4**





## THE SIMPLE ACT OF FISHING, PRESERVES FISHING.

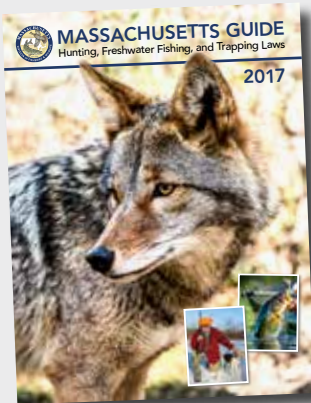
Every time you purchase a fishing license or register your boat, a portion of the proceeds go toward preserving our nation's coastlines, lakes, rivers and streams. Protecting our memories on the water for generations to come.

Learn more at [TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation](https://TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation)



**TAKEMEFISHING.org**





## About this Guide

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation guides. J.F. Griffin supports the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife's staff in the design, layout, and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the guide.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important wildlife and habitat programs.

If you have any feedback or are interested in advertising, please contact us at 413.884.1001 or online at [www.JFGriffin.com](http://www.JFGriffin.com)

**Designers:** Jon Gulley, Evelyn Haddad, Chris Sobolowski, Dane Fay and John Corey



430 Main St. Suite 5 | Williamstown, MA 01267

## NOTICE

This *Guide* contains a summary of the laws and regulations in place as of October 10, 2016. Any changes in law or regulation enacted after October 10 are publicized through releases to the news media, all license sales outlets, and on our website. These are not the complete laws and regulations. Laws and regulations (MGL Ch. 131 and 321 CMR) are subject to change.

## GENERAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

MassWildlife trains and certifies instructors from recreation departments, nature centers, Scouting organizations, and schools. Successful completion of this program allows any certified instructor the ability to offer an archery program in their area and to borrow equipment from MassWildlife free of charge.

After our first and very successful Youth Deer Hunt in 2015, I am looking forward to increased youth participation on September 30. Beyond the intrinsic benefits, this hunt serves as a great recruiting tool for developing hunting mentors.

In 2017, to complement the above programs, MassWildlife plans to partner with the University of Massachusetts Extension 4-H Youth Development Program to launch a 4-H Shooting Sports Program in Massachusetts. As with all 4-H programs, it will focus on youth development and will be designed to empower young people with skills they can use for a lifetime. Through this program, young people will develop an understanding of natural resources and conservation ethics while learning marksmanship, the safe and responsible use of firearms, the principles of hunting and archery, and other valuable life skills including self-confidence, personal discipline, responsibility, and sportsmanship.

You may notice a new look for MassWildlife; as part of a year-long project, we've updated our logo and have begun re-designing agency publications, signs and web pages for a consistent look and easily recognizable agency identity.

As always, I must acknowledge that what we do would not be possible without the strong support of hunters, anglers, and trappers. Although we manage wildlife for the benefit and enjoyment of all citizens of the Commonwealth, the sportsmen and women are the financial backbone of MassWildlife. Your willingness to step up in supporting everything from land acquisition to the conservation of rare and endangered species demonstrates the broad view of the interconnectedness and importance of all wildlife ... Thank you!

Jack Buckley, Director



Photo © Bill Byrne

## CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

Since 1938, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sportsmen and Women, and the Fishing, Hunting, Shooting, and Boating Industries, to fund fish and wildlife conservation projects through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. Today, this pioneering program serves as a cost-effective model for fish and wildlife conservation by providing fishing and hunting access to those who both funded and directly benefit from the resource — the anglers and hunters. Their contributions through this “user pay, public benefit” conservation model — funded by license purchases and excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment — benefit all Massachusetts residents.

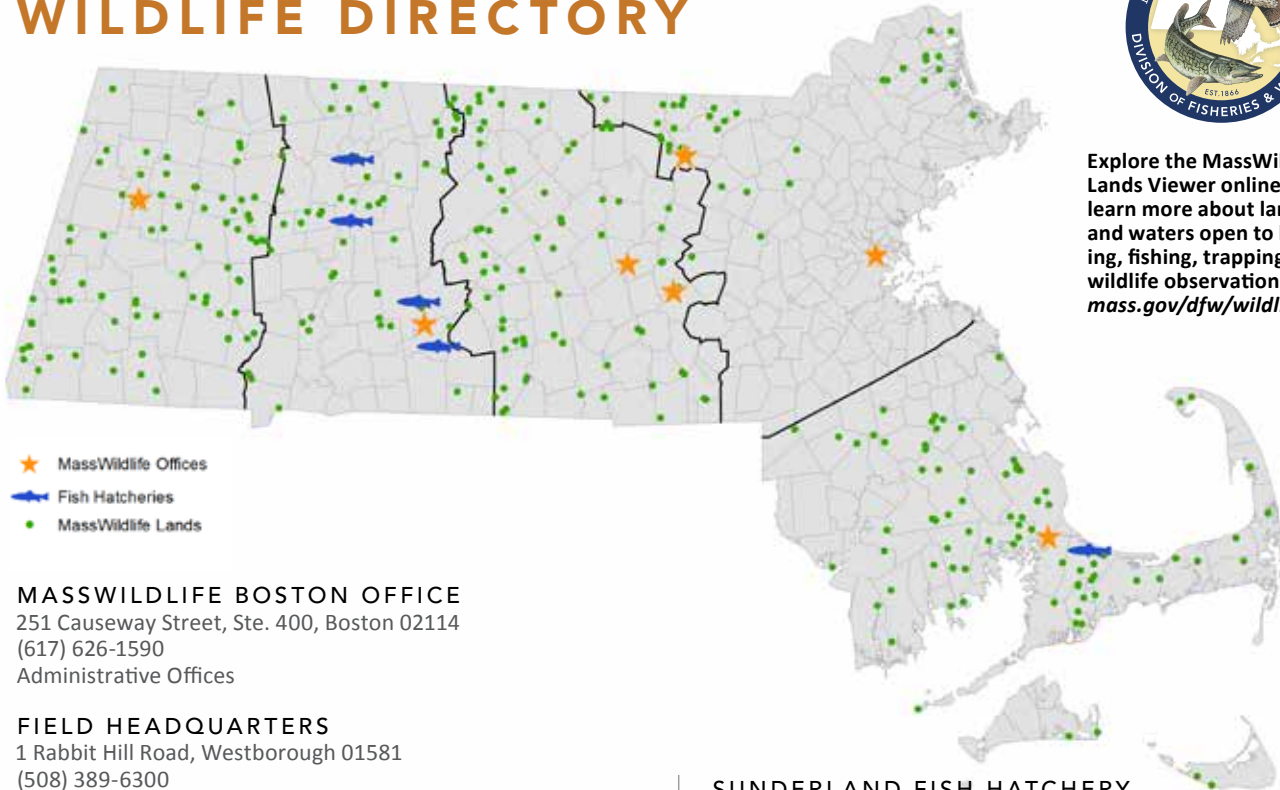




# DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE DIRECTORY



Explore the MassWildlife Lands Viewer online to learn more about land and waters open to hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife observation. Go to [mass.gov/dfw/wildlife-lands](http://mass.gov/dfw/wildlife-lands).



- ★ MassWildlife Offices
- 🐟 Fish Hatcheries
- MassWildlife Lands

## MASSWILDLIFE BOSTON OFFICE

251 Causeway Street, Ste. 400, Boston 02114  
(617) 626-1590  
Administrative Offices

## FIELD HEADQUARTERS

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough 01581  
(508) 389-6300  
Administration, Realty, Fisheries, Wildlife,  
Information & Education, Hunter Education, and  
Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

## WESTERN WILDLIFE DISTRICT

88 Old Windsor Road, Dalton 01226  
(413) 684-1646  
Andrew Madden, District Supervisor

## CONNECTICUT VALLEY WILDLIFE DISTRICT

341 East Street, Belchertown 01007  
(413) 323-7632  
Ralph Taylor, District Supervisor

## CENTRAL WILDLIFE DISTRICT

211 Temple Street, West Boylston 01583  
(508) 835-3607  
Bill Davis, District Supervisor

## NORTHEAST WILDLIFE DISTRICT

85 Fitchburg Road, Ayer 01432  
(978) 772-2145  
Patricia Huckery, District Supervisor

## SOUTHEAST WILDLIFE DISTRICT

195 Bournedale Road, Buzzards Bay 02532  
(508) 759-3406  
Jason Zimmer, District Supervisor

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OFFICE

251 Causeway Street, Ste. 400, Boston, 02114  
(617) 626-1500  
George Peterson Jr., Commissioner

## SUNDERLAND FISH HATCHERY

559 Amherst Road, Sunderland 01375  
(413) 665-4680  
Chuck Bell, Hatchery Manager

## BITZER FISH HATCHERY

37 Hatchery Road, Montague 01351  
(413) 367-2477  
John Williams, Hatchery Manager

## SANDWICH FISH HATCHERY

164 Rte 6A, Sandwich 02563  
(508) 888-0008  
Adam Davies, Hatchery Manager

## ROGER REED FISH HATCHERY (CLOSED TO PUBLIC)

693 Ware Street, Palmer, MA  
(413) 283-7440  
Daniel Marchant, Hatchery Manager

## McLAUGHLIN FISH HATCHERY

90 East Street, Belchertown 01007  
(413) 323-7671  
Jim Hahn, Hatchery Manager

## VISIT US AT

[mass.gov/masswildlife](http://mass.gov/masswildlife)  
[facebook.com/masswildlife](https://facebook.com/masswildlife)



## QUESTIONS?

Email us at [mass.wildlife@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.wildlife@state.ma.us)  
Get MassWildlife E-Newsletter: [mass.gov/dfw/newsletter](http://mass.gov/dfw/newsletter)

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE



### TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

**Radio Room**  
**(800) 632-8075**  
**mass.gov/ole**

**OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
**Colonel James McGinn, Director**  
(617) 626-1650  
(617) 626-1670 fax  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02114

**Lieutenant Colonel Brian Perrin,**  
**Deputy Director**  
(617) 626-1653  
(617) 626-1670 fax

### INLAND LAW ENFORCEMENT

**Inland Bureau Headquarters**  
**Major William P. Bilotta Jr.,**  
**Inland Bureau Chief**  
**Captain Robert Forsythe,**  
**Inland East Deputy Bureau Chief**  
(508) 366-1176  
(508) 366-6537  
(508) 366-1182 fax  
183 Milk Street  
Westborough, MA 01581

**Vacant,**  
**Inland West Deputy Bureau Chief**  
(413) 543-8616  
(413) 543-7963 fax  
18 Lake Dr.  
Indian Orchard 01151

### COASTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

**Coastal Bureau Headquarters**  
**Major Patrick Moran,**  
**Coastal Bureau Chief**  
(781) 740-2577  
(781) 740-2442  
(781) 740-1163  
(781) 740-4113 fax  
30 Shipyard Drive, Building 45  
Hingham, MA 02043

**Vacant, Coastal South Deputy Bureau Chief**  
(508) 992-8321  
(508) 992-8323 fax

**Captain Anthony Abdal-Khabir,**  
**Coastal North Deputy Bureau Chief**  
(978) 283-7764  
(978) 283-1162  
(978) 283-6729 fax

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS:**  
**BOAT AND RECREATION**  
**VEHICLE SAFETY BUREAU AND**  
**MARINE THEFT BUREAU**  
**Major David Loos,**  
**Special Operations**  
(617) 626-1663  
(617) 626-1658 fax  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 100  
Boston MA, 02114

**Captain Merri Walker,**  
**State Boating Law Administrator**  
(508) 366-6537

**Detective Lieutenant John Girvalakis,**  
**Boat & Recreation Vehicle Office:**  
(508) 564-4961  
(508) 564-4964 fax

The advertisement features a collage of fishing-related images. At the top, the text "Fishnet Charters" is written in a large, red, stylized font, with "Mobile Charter Service" in a smaller font below it. Below this, there are several photos: a large fish being pulled out of the water, a group of people on a boat, and a person holding a large fish. At the bottom, the text "Cape Cod - Buzzards Bay - Block Island" is written in a red, stylized font. Below this, the name "Capt. Mel True" is written in a large, bold font, followed by the website "www.CaptainMelTrue.com" and the phone number "508-951-9991". To the right of the phone number, the text "USCG Licensed", "Fully Insured", and "4 Passengers" is written in a smaller font. A small Facebook logo is also visible in the bottom left corner.

The advertisement is divided into two main sections. The top section features a photo of a blue and white fishing boat on the water. Above the boat, the text "WICKED COOLER" is written in a large, red, stylized font, with "CAPT. MEL TRUE SEAS" in a smaller font below it. To the left of the boat, there is a logo for "BAD DADDY" featuring a skull and crossbones. Below the boat, the text "FISH CAPE COD!" is written in a large, bold font. The bottom section features a photo of a person fishing with a large rod. Above the person, the text "Big Game Rods" is written in a large, red, stylized font. To the left of the person, there is a logo for "CUSTOM RODS" featuring a skull and crossbones, and the text "CAPT. MEL TRUE" and "www.CaptainMelTrue.com". To the right of the person, the text "Multi-Species Jigging &amp; Casting Rods" and "Custom EVA Grips" is written in a smaller font.



**Lt. Michael Grady, Training**  
(508) 366-6537

### ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES STRIKE FORCE

**Detective Sergeant Andrew Beaulieu**  
(617) 727-2200  
(617) 727-5755 fax  
1 Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108

### BOAT AND RECREATION VEHICLE OFFICE

(508) 564-4961  
(508) 564-4962  
(508) 564-4963  
(508) 564-4964 fax  
5202 Ent Steet,  
Buzzards Bay, MA 02542

### BOAT, ATV, AND SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION OFFICES

**Boston**  
251 Causeway St., Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 626-1610  
(617) 626-1630 fax

### Fall River

218 South Main Street, 3rd Floor  
Fall River, MA 02721  
(508) 679-8287  
(508) 679-0060 fax

### Hyannis

60 Perseverance Way, Suite 101  
Hyannis, MA 02601  
(508) 771-8382  
(508) 771-2334 fax

### Springfield

STCC Technology Park  
1 Federal Street, Bldg 101  
Springfield, MA 01105  
(413) 733-1642  
(413) 733-2154 fax

### Worcester

67 Millbrook Street  
Suite 350, 3rd Floor  
Worcester, MA 01606  
(508) 753-0603  
(508) 752-6132 fax

## SALVAGE OF DEER, MOOSE & BEAR

ROAD-KILLED DEER may be kept by a Massachusetts driver or passenger of vehicle killing said deer if reported to Law Enforcement at (800) 632-8075 immediately and then tagged at a MassWildlife or Environmental Police office within 24 hours.

ROAD-KILLED MOOSE OR BEAR may not be kept by a Massachusetts driver or passenger of the vehicle killing the moose or bear. The disposition of any moose or bear carcass is only at the discretion of the Environmental Police or MassWildlife. To report a road-killed moose or bear, call MassWildlife at (508) 389-6300.

## THE GUN PARLOR



**170 PRESCOTT ST.  
WORCESTER, MA 01605  
508.982.0722**

**Sales@TheGunParlor.com**



**www.TheGunParlor.com**

**www.TheGunParlorRange.com**

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# LICENSES

## HUNTING, FRESHWATER FISHING, & TRAPPING LICENSES

Licenses are valid from January 1 through December 31 (except for limited term licenses).

### Who Needs a License?

Licenses are required for all persons 15 years of age and over for hunting any game bird or mammal; and/or for fishing the inland waters of Massachusetts. No person under the age of 12 may hunt. Anglers under 15 may fish, but do not need a license. A trapping license is required for all persons age 12 years of age and older. In addition, to trap on the land of another, a Trap Registration Number is required.

**AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNERS:** Any person who owns or leases land that is principally used for agriculture and any immediate family members and who are domiciled on said land does not need a hunting, fishing, or trapping license to hunt, fish, or trap on that property. Permits and stamps are still required.

**LICENSE DISPLAY:** All hunters, anglers and trappers must have their license, permits and stamps in possession while engaging in these activities. Hunters and anglers may display a true, complete and legible image of a valid license using a mobile device. Hunters must still comply with all tagging requirements. If a tag is required, as it is for hunting deer, bear, and turkey, hunters must carry a paper copy of the tag attached to the appropriate documentation (i.e. license or permit).

**RESIDENT & NON-RESIDENT LICENSES:** To obtain a resident hunting, fishing, or trapping license, applicant must reside in Massachusetts for six consecutive months immediately prior to purchase.

**NOTE:** For non-residents, a valid Massachusetts non-resident license is required. A big game license (license Class H5) is required of non-residents to hunt deer, bear, and wild turkey. For more information, see page 22.

### Purchasing Licenses, Stamps & Permits

Licenses, stamps, and permits may be purchased online by anglers 15 years and older, and by hunters and trappers 18 years or older at [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt). Minor hunters (15-17 years old) and minor trap-

pers (12-17 years old) **cannot** purchase a license online due to documents needed for verification. Minors (or parent/guardian) must purchase the license at a MassWildlife office or other license vendor including some city and town clerks, and selected sporting goods retailers.

### Hunting/Sporting License

Hunting and sporting (fishing/hunting) licenses for anyone aged 15 years or older can be purchased **only** if the buyer has successfully completed a Basic Hunter Education course or held a hunting license anywhere in North America prior to 2007.

### MINOR HUNTERS (15-17 YEARS OLD):

All minors 15-17 years old must be licensed and have required stamps and permits to hunt any bird or mammal. To obtain a hunting or sporting license, a minor must have a letter of consent from a parent or guardian and either a Basic Hunter Education Certificate from anywhere in North America or a letter signed by a parent affirming that the minor will be accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older. Minor hunting and sporting licenses can only be purchased from MassWildlife offices or license vendors, a vendor must verify the minor has a consent letter and either a Basic Hunter Education Certificate or an "adult accompaniment" letter. Minors must carry their Hunter Education Certificate while hunting. If gun hunting, a Firearms Identification card (FID) is required.

### MINOR HUNTERS (12-14 YEARS OLD):

No person under the age of 12 may hunt. All minors 12-14 years old may hunt when accompanied by a duly licensed adult, provided that a single bag limit shall be observed and only one firearm/bow is possessed by the two. Only one minor per adult is permitted. No Firearms Identification (FID) card is needed by 12-14 year old minors.

### Falconry

Hunting with birds of prey is allowed under a special permit from MassWildlife. A hunting license is also required. Contact MassWildlife at (508) 389-6300 or visit [mass.gov/masswildlife](http://mass.gov/masswildlife) for more information.

### Freshwater Fishing License

Anglers 15 and older must have a freshwater fishing license to fish inland (fresh) waters of Massachusetts. Anglers under 15 may fish, but do not need a license. A freshwater (inland) fishing license is not required on the Merrimack River seaward of the first upstream bridge (northbound traffic) of Route 495 in Haverhill however a saltwater fishing permit is required. (See page 11)

### Trapping License & Trap Registration Number

To trap on the land of another, a Trap Registration Number is required and may be obtained from the Permit Section, Boston Office (617) 626-1575 **only** after successful completion of a Trapper Education course from any U.S. state. To obtain a trapping license, minors 12-17 years-old must have a letter of consent from a parent or guardian. For more trapping information, see page 43.

## PERMITS

Bear, turkey, and antlerless deer permits may only be used by the hunter to whom they are issued. They are not transferable.

**ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT:** Required to take an antlerless deer during archery, shotgun, and primitive firearms seasons in all zones. The deadline to apply for an antlerless deer permit is July 16 at any license vendor or online through the MassFishHunt system. Only one application per person. The application is free. See page 36 for more details.

**YOUTH DEER HUNT PERMIT:** Youth hunters ages 12-17 are required to obtain a free permit to hunt deer on the 4th Saturday following Labor Day. See page 38.

**BEAR PERMIT:** Required to hunt bear. Hunters may purchase this permit when purchasing their hunting/sporting license or at any time prior to the end of the third segment of the bear season through any license vendor or online computer. Fee is \$5.00.

**TURKEY PERMIT:** Required to hunt turkey. Hunters may purchase this permit when purchasing their hunting/sporting license or at any time prior to the end of the fall turkey season through any license vendor or online computer. Fee is \$5.00.

## SPECIAL LICENSES OR PERMITS

Special licenses or permits are necessary for sale, possession, importation or release of certain fish and wildlife, and for fur dealers, propagators, wildlife rehabilitators, taxidermists and/or fur buyers. Sale and importation of baitfish require separate dealer and importation permits. Apply to MassWildlife Boston office, Permit Section (617) 626-1575. For permits regarding crossbows, falconry, problem animal control, or shooting preserves contact Field Headquarters at (508) 389-6300.



## STAMPS

**ARCHERY STAMP: (\$5.10)** Required to hunt deer during the archery deer season.

**PRIMITIVE FIREARMS STAMP: (\$5.10)** Required to hunt deer during the primitive firearms deer season.

**MASSACHUSETTS WATERFOWL STAMP: (\$5.00)** Required of all waterfowl (ducks and geese) hunters **age 15 and older**. Massachusetts state stamps are valid Jan. 1 - Dec. 31 and may be purchased online at [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt) or wherever hunting licenses are sold. Stamp purchase includes mandatory Harvest Information Program (HIP) Registration.

**FEDERAL MIGRATORY GAME BIRD STAMP: (\$25.00)** Required of all waterfowl hunters **16 years or older**. Federal stamps are valid July 1 - June 30 of the following year. Federal stamp must be signed across the stamp in ink. Federal stamps are available at all National Wildlife Refuges, selected U.S. Post Offices, and at [usps.com](http://usps.com). New this year, federal stamps are also available for purchase online through MassFishHunt ([mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt)) or wherever hunting licenses are sold.

## NEW THIS YEAR

Waterfowl hunters may purchase a Federal Migratory Game Bird Stamp through the MassFishHunt online licensing system, at any authorized license agent, or at any MassWildlife office. When purchasing the federal stamp online, a federal "eDuck Stamp" will be added to your Massachusetts hunting or sporting license and can be used immediately. This eDuck Stamp provides all the privileges of a Federal Duck Stamp on a temporary basis and will expire 45 days from the date of purchase. Before your eDuck Stamp expires, a physical Federal Duck Stamp will be sent to you via U.S. mail. As soon as you receive the Federal Duck Stamp, you must sign it in ink across the face and carry it with you while hunting. If you bought an eDuck Stamp and did not receive your physical Duck Stamp after a few weeks, contact Amplex at [duckstamp@amplex.com](mailto:duckstamp@amplex.com) or (800) 852-4897. If you experience difficulty purchasing the Federal eDuck Stamp through the MassFishHunt system, call (888) 773-8450. Visit [mass.gov/dfw/migratory-bird-hunting](http://mass.gov/dfw/migratory-bird-hunting) for more information.



Photo © Troy Gipps

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## 2017 LICENSE, STAMP &amp; PERMIT FEES

CLASS	LICENSE	FEE
F1	Resident Fishing	\$27.50
F2	Resident Minor Fishing (Age 15–17)	FREE
F3	Resident Fishing (Age 65–69)	\$16.25
F4	Resident Fishing (Age 70 or over) Or paraplegic, blind, intellectually disabled*	FREE
F6	Non-resident Fishing	37.50
F7	Non-resident Fishing (3 day)	23.50
F8	Resident Fishing (3 day)	12.50
F9	Non-resident Fishing (Age 15–17)	11.50
F10	Quabbin One Day Fishing	5.00
H1	Resident Citizen Hunting	27.50
H2	Resident Citizen Hunting (Age 65–69)	16.25
H3	Resident/Non-resident Hunting, Paraplegic*	FREE
H4	Resident Alien Hunting	27.50
H5	Non-resident (adult/minor) Hunting, Big Game (Deer, Bear, Turkey, and all other game species)	99.50
H6	Non-resident (adult/minor) Hunting, Small Game (All game species except deer, bear, and turkey)	65.50
H7	Non-resident Commercial Shooting Preserve (1 day)	10.00
H8	Resident Minor Hunting (Age 15–17)	11.50
H9	Resident Commercial Shooting Preserve (1 day)	10.00
S1	Resident Citizen Sporting	45.00
S2	Resident Citizen Sporting (Age 65–69)	25.00
S3	Resident Citizen Sporting (Age 70 or over) (includes trapping)	FREE
S4	Resident/Non-Resident Paraplegic Sporting*	FREE
T1	Resident Trapping	35.50
T2	Resident Minor Trapping (Age 12–17)	11.50
T3	Resident Trapping (Age 65–69)	20.25
M/N 1	Archery Stamp	5.10
M/N 2	Waterfowl Stamp	5.00
M/N 3	Primitive Firearms Stamp	5.10
W1	Wildlands Stamp, Resident	5.00
W2	Wildlands Stamp, Non-resident	5.00
	Antlerless Deer Permit (when issued)	5.00
	Bear Permit	5.00
	Turkey Permit	5.00
	Trap Registration Number (Boston Office)	5.00
	Trap Registration Number Renewal (Boston Office)	5.00
	Non-resident Trapping Permit (Field Headquarters Office)	200.00
	Resident Furbuyer*	30.00
	Non-resident Citizen/Alien Furbuyer*	90.00

\* First time applicants must contact Boston MassWildlife office.  
Restrictions apply.

**NOTE:** Fee for **first** resident license and **all** non-resident licenses includes a \$5.00 fee for the Wildlands Conservation Stamp. Fee for **second** resident license in calendar year **does not** include the \$5.00 fee for the Wildlands Conservation Stamp. City and town clerks **must** add an additional one dollar (\$1.00); other sales agents **may** add up to an additional one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) service fee to the price of each license sold. An additional service fee of \$1.50 per license is applied to all licenses purchased through a sales agent. The same service fee, plus an additional 3% internet handling charge on the total transaction, is applied to all online license purchases. There are no service fees or internet handling charges for licenses purchased at offices of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, where only cash or checks are accepted.

Buy Licenses/Permits  
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Photo © Bill Byrne





\* Design subject to change

Artwork by Ed Snyder

## Land for Sportsmen

*The Sportsmen's National Land Trust has created this special license plate\* to help conserve wildlife habitat and to guarantee hunting and fishing access in Massachusetts.*

*Join us in preserving land for all outdoorsmen and future generations to come. Proudly show your support every day by purchasing the SNLT Massachusetts license plate!*

*For more information go to:*

[www.SNLTMassachusetts.org](http://www.SNLTMassachusetts.org)

## ASK THE LANDOWNER

Hunting, fishing, and trapping are permitted on private land that is not posted against trespass. As a courtesy, ask the landowner for permission in advance. Landowners with posted land may provide (written) permission for individuals to access their property. Written landowner permission is required to trap on posted land. Hunters should also check for relevant town bylaws pertaining to hunting and discharge of firearms.

## SALTWATER FISHING PERMITS

Saltwater anglers in Massachusetts are required to purchase a state recreational saltwater fishing permit. The fee for this permit is \$10 and is the same cost for all anglers, including non-residents. Anglers younger than 16, or disabled, or who fish only on charter boats or "head boats" are exempt from this requirement. Anglers age 60 and older will need to obtain a permit, but the saltwater permit is free. The permit is available online, by mail, and in person at participating vendors and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries offices in Gloucester, Boston, and New Bedford. For more information, please visit: [mass.gov/dmf/saltwaterpermits](http://mass.gov/dmf/saltwaterpermits).

## MARINE FISHERIES

**Have any questions regarding saltwater fishing regulations?**

Call the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries information hotline at (617) 626-1520 or visit [mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://mass.gov/marinefisheries) or email [marine.fish@state.ma.us](mailto:marine.fish@state.ma.us)



# STOP THE SPREAD

## of Nuisance Aquatic Plants and Animals

**Boaters, anglers, and other lake and river users** are reminded that many unwanted, invasive species can be transported and inadvertently introduced to new waters by hitchhiking undetected on your boat, trailer, motor, waders, diving equipment, and other fishing gear. Please **clean** and decontaminate your boat, motor, trailer, ropes, and gear; **drain** your boat, motor, and live well(s); and make sure your equipment is thoroughly **dry** before entering any body of water. For more information contact Massachusetts DCR Lakes and Ponds Program at (617) 626-1250 or [mass.gov/lakesandponds](http://mass.gov/lakesandponds).

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY



# FISHING SEASONS AND LIMITS

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH <sup>1</sup>
<b>Trout <sup>2</sup></b>			
Lakes, ponds, major rivers <sup>3, 5, 6</sup>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	3	—
Housatonic River <sup>4</sup>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	20"
All other rivers and brooks	Apr. 1 – Sept. 10 Sept. 11 – Mar. 31, 2018	8 3	—
<b>Lake Trout</b>			
Wachusett Reservoir <sup>6</sup>	(see note 6)	3	—
Quabbin <sup>6</sup>	(see note 6)	2	18"
<b>Landlocked Salmon <sup>6</sup></b>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	2	15"
<b>American Shad <sup>7</sup></b> (Connecticut and Merrimack rivers only, including their tributaries.)	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	3	—
<b>Chain Pickerel</b>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	15"
<b>Black Bass</b> (Largemouth and Smallmouth, singly or combined):	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	12"
<b>Northern Pike</b>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	28"
<b>Tiger Muskellunge</b>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	1	28"
<b>Walleye</b>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	5	14"
<b>Smelt <sup>8</sup></b>	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28 May 16 – Dec. 31	—	—
<b>All Other Freshwater Species <sup>9</sup></b>	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31	—	—
<b>Stiped Bass and Herring:</b> For season, size, and possession limits call the Division of Marine Fisheries at (617) 626-1520, or visit their website at <a href="http://mass.gov/marinefisheries">mass.gov/marinefisheries</a> .			
<b>Possession of:</b> Sturgeon (all species), American Brook Lamprey, Atlantic (sea-run) Salmon, Bridle Shiner, Burbot, Eastern Silvery Minnow, Lake Chub, Long-nose Sucker, and Northern Redbelly Dace is illegal! <b>If caught, release immediately.</b> This means remove hook or cut line and return fish to water <b>immediately</b> — do not pose for photographs, place on a stringer, hold in a net, or delay in any way the immediate return and release of these rare fish to the water!			

1 **Minimum length** is measured as the straight line (not curved over the body) from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. The tips of any forked tail may be squeezed together for the final measurement.

2 **Trout** applies to Brook, Brown, Rainbow, and Tiger Trout (a cross between a female Brown and a male Brook Trout). From Apr. 1 to Sept. 10, no more than 8 trout (as defined) may be taken daily, and only 3 of those trout may be from lakes, ponds, or major rivers<sup>3</sup>. From Sept. 11 to Mar. 31, no more than 3 trout (as defined) may be taken daily.

3 **Major Rivers:** Childs, Coonamessett, Deerfield, Farmington, Green (Colrain), Green (Great Barrington), Ipswich, Jones, Mashpee, Millers, Nissitissit, North (Colrain), North (West Branch), Parker, Quaboag, Quinapoxet, Quinebaug, Seven Mile, Santuit, Scorton Creek, Shawsheen, Squannacook, Stillwater (Sterling, Princeton), Swift (East Branch), Swift (Winsor Dam to Ware River, except as posted), Tully (East and West Branches), Ware, Ware (East Branch), Westfield (all branches).

4 **Mainstem Housatonic only**, from the confluence of the East and West Branches to the MA-CT line, exclusive of the catch-and-release areas where no trout may be kept.

5 **Special Brown Trout water:** South Pond (Quacumquasit), Brookfield. Total daily creel is 3 trout but only 1 may be a Brown Trout and it must be at least 15".

6 **Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs:** Opening and closing dates are set by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The Quabbin Reservoir Fishing Season generally opens on the third Saturday of April and runs through the third Saturday in October, but these dates may be adjusted due to weather and other factors. Quabbin Reservoir and its tributary streams within the Quabbin Reservation are closed to all fishing except during the open season as set by DCR. The Quabbin Fishing Guide is available at: [mass.gov/dcr/quabbinfish](http://mass.gov/dcr/quabbinfish) or by calling (413) 323-7221. The Wachusett/Sudbury/West Waushacum fishing season normally opens the first Saturday in April and closes November 30, but the DCR/DWSP may alter those dates depending on ice conditions. At Wachusett Reservoir, shoreline fishing only is allowed from Gate 6 on Route 70 to Gate 36 on Route 110. A Wachusett and Sudbury Reservoir Fishing Guide is available at: [mass.gov/dcr/wachusettfish](http://mass.gov/dcr/wachusettfish) or by calling (508) 792-7806.

7 **American Shad** are Catch-and-Release ONLY on all waters **except** the Connecticut and Merrimack rivers, including their tributaries.

8 **Smelt** may be taken by hook and line only.

9 Excluding the state- and federally-listed species listed after the "Possession of:" heading in the bottom row of the table shown above.

## ICE FISHING

All anglers are allowed up to five hooks through the ice at one time. A hook is defined as an angling device attached to the line of a tip-up or jig stick that is designed to take one fish at a time. This includes plain hooks, treble hooks, spinners, spoons, bait harnesses, jigs, or plugs. The device in question is not restricted to a single hook — lures with multiple treble hooks count as one hook in the water. Hooks can be on any combination of tip-ups or jig sticks, but no more than five hooks total.

All anglers must be able to tend their own hooks (tip-ups or jig sticks). Adults may assist minors with cutting holes or removing hooks, but minors must be capable of tending tip-ups or jig sticks on their own.





## BAIT

It is unlawful to take baitfish for the purpose of sale from the inland waters of the Commonwealth. Individuals trapping fish for personal use as baitfish may use only one trap.

**BAITFISH** may be taken by licensed anglers at any time for personal use by all lawful methods, including a rectangular net not exceeding 36 square feet of net area or by a hoop or circular net not exceeding 6 feet in diameter or with a fish trap with openings not exceeding one inch. Nets designed to gill fish are prohibited. Only the fish species listed below may be taken for personal use as bait, live or dead, by licensed anglers.

Banded Killifish	Pumpkinseed
Fallfish	Rainbow Smelt*
Fathead Minnow	Yellow Perch
Golden Shiner	White Sucker
Mummichog	

\* Smelt may be taken **only** by hook and line. Possession or use of smelt as bait in inland waters other than during the smelt season is prohibited.

## REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT
<b>For Personal Use</b>				
Bullfrog, Green Frog	July 16 - Sept. 30	12	24	none
Snapping Turtle	Jan. 1 - Apr. 30 July 17 - Dec. 31	2	2	12 in.*
<b>For Bait</b>				
Bullfrog, Green Frog, Pickerel Frog, Wood Frog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	10	10	less than 2½ in.**

\*Straight line carapace (shell) length

\*\*Snout to vent length


Fishing license required. Bullfrogs, green frogs, wood frogs, and pickerel frogs may be taken by hand or by hand-held dip net. Snapping turtles may be taken by hand, hand-held dip net, or gaff.

**FROGS** (except leopard frogs) 2½ inches or less snout to vent may be taken by licensed anglers and used as bait; 10 daily, 10 in possession; may not be sold.

**HERRING:** For regulations on herring contact the Division of Marine Fisheries, (617) 626-1520 or [mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://mass.gov/marinefisheries).


## FREE FISHING WEEKEND

**June 3 & 4, 2017 —  
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## CATCH-AND-RELEASE AREAS

Artificial lures only. No bait in possession.

**HOUSATONIC RIVER:** From the Rte. 20 bridge in Lee downstream to Willow Mill Dam AND from Glendale Dam downstream to the RR bridge in Great Barrington. No fishing from June 15—Aug. 31 inclusive within 100 feet of the mouths of posted tributaries: Beartown Brook; Goose Pond Brook; Hop Brook; and Mohawk Brook.

**RED BROOK:** From the outlet of White Island Pond to the inlet of Buttermilk Bay.

**NISSITISSIT RIVER:** From the New Hampshire border to the Prescott St. Bridge. FLY FISHING ONLY (year-round).

**SWIFT RIVER:** Winsor Dam to Rte. 9, catch-and-release FLY FISHING ONLY (year-round). Rte. 9 to Cady Lane, catch-and-release, artificial lures only (July 1—Dec. 31); fish harvest and bait allowed (Jan. 1—June 30).

**DEERFIELD RIVER:** Fife Brook Dam to Hoo-sac Tunnel, and the section extending from Pelham Brook to the Mohawk Campground.

**QUASHNET RIVER:** From the outlet of John's Pond to the sign 0.1 mile below Rte. 28.

## WESTFIELD RIVER, EAST BRANCH:

Immediately below the Chesterfield Gorge parking lot in Chesterfield to the gate north of the Corps of Engineers parking lot at Knightville in Huntington.

**MILLERS RIVER:** Templeton/Athol RR bridge to the first dam in Athol and from Wendell Rd. bridge in Orange to the breached dam in Erving center.

## FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

The Mass. Dept. of Public Health (MDPH) has issued a statewide advisory for pregnant women, nursing mothers, women who may become pregnant, and children under 12 to refrain from consuming fish caught in freshwater due to elevated levels of mercury in fish. MDPH has also issued fish consumption advisories for the general public on selected bodies of water. For more information or a list of waters with fish consumption advisories, contact MDPH, Bureau of Environmental Health, at (617) 624-5757 or [mass.gov/dph](http://mass.gov/dph).

## INTERSTATE POND LICENSE REGULATIONS

**WALLUM LAKE, DOUGLAS:** Fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or Rhode Island. Rhode Island regulations apply.

**LAKE MONOMONAC AND ROBBINS POND, WINCHENDON; LONG POND, TYNGSBORO AND DRACUT; BENT POND, WARWICK; TUXBURY POND, AMESBURY:** Fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or New Hampshire. New Hampshire regulations apply.

**COLEBROOK RESERVOIR, TOLLAND; PERRY POND, DUDLEY; MUDDY POND, SOUTHBRIDGE; BREAKNECK POND, STURBRIDGE; CONGAMOND LAKE, SOUTHWICK; HAMILTON RESERVOIR, HOLLAND:** Fishing permitted by persons duly licensed in Massachusetts or Connecticut. Connecticut regulations apply to Colebrook Reservoir, Breakneck Pond, Perry Pond and Muddy Pond. Massachusetts regulations apply to Congamond Lake and Hamilton Reservoir.

**SHERMAN RESERVOIR, ROWE:** Massachusetts regulations apply and MA license required in MA. Vermont regulations apply and VT license required in VT.



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## FISHING PROHIBITIONS

- **More than two hooks** for fishing open water or more than five hooks when ice fishing. A hook is defined as an angling device attached to a fishing line that is designed to take one fish at a time but is not limited to devices commonly called spinners, spoons, bait harnesses, jigs, or plugs.
- The taking of any fish from the inland waters of the Commonwealth for the purposes of sale.
- **Lead Sinkers, Lead Weights, and Lead Jigs Weighing Less Than an Ounce.** Any sinker or weight made from lead that weighs less than 1 ounce, and any lead jig (meaning any lead-weighted hook) that weighs less than 1 ounce, is prohibited for use in all inland waters of the Commonwealth. The term lead sinker shall not include any other sinkers, weights, fishing lures or fishing tackle including, but not limited to, artificial lures, hooks, weighted flies, and lead-core or other weighted fishing lines.
- **Possession of:** Sturgeon (all species), American Brook Lamprey, Atlantic (sea-run) Salmon, Bridle Shiner, Burbot, Eastern Silvery Minnow, Lake Chub, Longnose Sucker, and Northern Redbelly Dace is illegal! If caught, release immediately. This means remove hook or cut line and return fish to water immediately — do not pose for photographs, place on a stringer, hold in a net, or delay in any way the immediate return and release of the fish to the water.
- **Releasing** fish or spawn into inland waters, except by permit.
- **Transporting** live fish (except bait for personal use) without a permit.
- **Jug**, toggle, or trot line fishing.
- **Snagging**
- **Poisons, explosives**
- **Littering** in inland waters.

### SPEARS, BOW AND ARROWS

May be used to take White Suckers and Carp only. Fishing license required.

### MARINE FISHERIES

**Have any questions regarding saltwater fishing regulations?**

Call the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries information hotline at (617) 626-1520 or visit [mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://mass.gov/marinefisheries) or email [marine.fish@state.ma.us](mailto:marine.fish@state.ma.us)



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# ANGLER'S GUIDE TO MASSACHUSETTS FISHES

More than 80 kinds of fish live in the inland waters of the Commonwealth. Pictured is a small sample of some of the most popular species commonly taken by anglers. For a more complete list, pick up a copy of our brochure *Freshwater Fishes of Massachusetts* at any MassWildlife office.



## LARGEMOUTH BASS

A warm-water gamefish found in lakes, ponds and slow moving rivers associated with weeds and structure. Typically 1–3 lbs, but can reach up to 15 lbs. Dark line along each side is a good identification mark.



## SMALLMOUTH BASS

Less common than largemouths, these cool-water gamefish are found in clear, rocky habitats. Average size is 1–2 lbs, but can reach up to 8 lbs. This species often jumps spectacularly when hooked.



## BROWN BULLHEAD

Our native “horned pout” catfish thrives in warm-water habitats associated with muddy bottoms and aquatic vegetation. Average size is 8–12 inches, but larger ones are not uncommon. Handle this fish (and all catfish) with care, as spines in the dorsal and pectoral fins can inflict painful wounds.



## BROWN TROUT

This trout thrives in heavy cover and deep pools of cold, well-oxygenated water. Typically stocked at 10–14 inches with larger specimens to 20+ inches. Many wild populations exist in small to medium-size streams.



## BROOK TROUT

This beautiful native char thrives in clean, cold, well-oxygenated waters. It is found in high gradient streams and coldwater beaver flowages. Wild brookies average 6–8 inches, but stocked specimens are typically 10–12 inches or larger. Considered by many to be the most beautiful fish in North America.



## RAINBOW TROUT

These trout thrive in cold, well-oxygenated, fast moving water. Typical hatchery fish are 12–16 inches, with larger specimens to 20+ inches. Profusely speckled and usually has a pink line along each side.



## ATLANTIC/LANDLOCKED SALMON

The anadromous form of this species lives in the open ocean but ascends freshwater rivers to spawn. The landlocked form lives in deep, cold, freshwater habitats and spawns in tributaries. The Anadromous form, considered extirpated from Massachusetts waters, grows to 20 lbs; landlocks average 2–4 lbs. Landlocked populations occur in the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs.





## BLUEGILL

A sunfish that prefers shallow, weedy, warm-water habitats. Typically 4–7 inches in length with larger specimens to 10 inches. Identified by the solid black flap on gill cover and a dark patch near the back, bottom edge of the dorsal fin.



## PUMPKINSEED

A native sunfish, this pretty little “kivver” is found in weedy, warm-water habitats. Most are 4–7 inches, but can get up to 8–9 inches. Look for blue “warpaint” on the face and a red/orange-tipped gill flap.



## BLACK CRAPPIE

This “calico bass” is found in weedy, warm-water habitats. It often forms schools in submerged structure, especially brush piles and fallen trees. Typically 5–12 inches, but larger specimens not uncommon.



## YELLOW PERCH

A native cool-water panfish found in the vegetated areas of lakes, ponds, slow streams, and almost any open water with moderate vegetation. Typically 8–10 inches but larger fish are not uncommon. A schooling fish, it is safe to assume that if you find one, there are others in the vicinity.



## BOWFIN

Bowfin are currently limited to the major river drainages in Massachusetts. Body is tubular with a bullet-shaped head and a long, spineless dorsal fin. Most specimens are olive to brownish gray, often with a mottled pattern; males display a black spot near the upper base of the tail. Typically 2–4 pounds, but some may reach 10 pounds or more. Usually associated with shallow, muddy, fertile water, and occasionally taken through the ice.



## CHAIN PICKEREL

A native cool-water gamefish found in shallow, vegetated areas of fairly clear lakes, ponds, and rivers. Typically 15–20 inches but larger specimens are not uncommon. Respected for its sharp teeth which can easily cut most fishing lines and inflict minor wounds.

## TEMPERATURE PREFERENCES OF FISH

In order to thrive and reproduce, different fish prefer different water temperature ranges. Some fish need colder temperatures, while others fare well in warmer waters.

Temp.	Fish Species
80	< Catfish Family
75	< Bluegill/Pumpkinseed
70	< Largemouth Bass < Calico Bass (Crappies)
65	< Esocids (Pike/Pickereel/Muskellunge), Smallmouth Bass
60	< Perch Family (Yellow/Walleye)
55	< Brown Trout
50	< Landlocked Salmon, Rainbow/Brook Trout
45	< Lake Trout



# FRESHWATER SPORTFISHING AWARDS PROGRAM AND STATE RECORDS

Awards for freshwater fish are offered in 22 categories. Each qualified entry receives a bronze pin. The largest fish in each category each year also receives a gold pin and plaque. There are also Youth (17 and under) and Adult "Angler of the Year" awards given to anglers who have taken the greatest variety of "pinfish" during the calendar year. Fish must meet minimum weight or length requirements listed below. Catch and Keep entries must be weighed on a scale certified by the State. Go to [mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards](http://mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards) for a list of weigh stations and to download an affidavit. This information is also available at MassWildlife offices.

## FIND MORE INFORMATION

Learn more about the Massachusetts Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program and see a list of past Gold Pin Winners at [mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards](http://mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards) or visit any MassWildlife office.

## MINIMUM WEIGHTS AND LENGTHS

SPECIES	CATCH AND KEEP (WEIGHT)		CATCH AND RELEASE LENGTH (INCHES)
	ADULT	YOUTH	
Bowfin	6 lb. 0 oz.	4 lb. 0 oz.	26
Brook Trout	2 lb. 0 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	16
Brown Trout	4 lb. 0 oz.	2 lb. 0 oz.	22
Bullhead	2 lb. 0 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	15
Carp	15 lb. 0 oz.	10 lb. 0 oz.	31
Chain Pickerel	4 lb. 8 oz.	3 lb. 0 oz.	25
Channel Catfish	6 lb. 0 oz.	5 lb. 0 oz.	25
Crappie	1 lb. 8 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	14
Lake Trout	7 lb. 0 oz.	5 lb. 0 oz.	30
Landlocked Salmon <sup>1</sup>	4 lb. 0 oz.	3 lb. 0 oz.	22
Largemouth Bass	7 lb. 0 oz.	4 lb. 0 oz.	21
Northern Pike	15 lb. 0 oz.	10 lb. 0 oz.	36
Rainbow Trout	3 lb. 0 oz.	2 lb. 0 oz.	20
Shad	5 lb. 0 oz.	3 lb. 0 oz.	22
Smallmouth Bass	4 lb. 8 oz.	3 lb. 0 oz.	20
Sunfish <sup>2</sup>	0 lb. 12 oz.	0 lb. 8 oz.	10
Tiger Muskellunge	10 lb. 0 oz.	7 lb. 0 oz.	34
Tiger Trout	2 lb. 0 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	16
Walleye	4 lb. 0 oz.	2 lb. 0 oz.	24
White Catfish	4 lb. 0 oz.	2 lb. 0 oz.	19
White Perch	1 lb. 8 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	14
Yellow Perch	1 lb. 8 oz.	1 lb. 0 oz.	14

1 Landlocked Salmon are recognized only from Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs.

2 Sunfish category includes Redbreast Sunfish, Green Sunfish, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, and Rock Bass.

## MASSACHUSETTS FRESHWATER SPORTFISHING STATE RECORDS

SPECIES	WEIGHT	WATER	YEAR
American Shad	11 lbs. 4 ozs.	Connecticut River	1986
Broodstock Salmon	22 lbs. 15 ozs.	Lake Mattawa, Orange	1997
Brook Trout	10 lbs. 0 ozs.	Ashfield Lake, Ashfield	2008
Brown Trout	19 lbs. 10 ozs.	Wachusett Reservoir	1966
Bullhead	6 lbs. 4 ozs.	Forest Lake, Methuen	2008
Carp	46 lbs. 5 ozs.	Quinsigamond Lake, Shrewsbury	2012
Chain Pickerel	9 lbs. 5 ozs.	Laurel Lake, Lee	1954
Channel Catfish	26 lbs. 8 ozs.	Ashfield Lake, Ashfield	1989
Crappie	4 lbs. 10 ozs.	Jake's Pond, Plymouth	1980
Lake Trout	25 lbs. 7 ozs.	Quabbin Reservoir	2016
Landlocked Salmon	10 lbs. 2 ozs.	Wachusett Reservoir	1985
Largemouth Bass	15 lbs. 8 ozs.	Sampson Pond, Carver	1975
Northern Pike	35 lbs. 0 ozs.	Quacumquasit Pond, Brookfield	1988
Rainbow Trout	13 lbs. 13 ozs.	Wachusett Reservoir	1999
Smallmouth Bass	8 lbs. 2 ozs.	Wachusett Reservoir	1991
Sunfish	2 lbs. 1 ozs.	South Athol Pond, Athol	1982
Tiger Muskellunge	27 lbs. 0 ozs.	Lake Pontoosuc, Pittsfield	2001
Tiger Trout	9 lbs. 7 ozs.	Peter's Pond, Sandwich	2004
Walleye	11 lbs. 0 ozs.	Quabbin Reservoir	1973
White Catfish	9 lbs. 3 ozs.	Baddacook Pond, Groton	1987
White Perch	3 lbs. 8 ozs.	Wachusett Reservoir	2016
Yellow Perch	2 lbs. 12 ozs.	South Watuppa Pond, Fall River	1979





## CATCH AND RELEASE ANGLERS: TIPS FOR MINIMIZING FISH STRESS

- If using bait, the use of circle hooks dramatically reduces the likelihood of gut-hooking a fish.
- Be attentive and set the hook immediately to prevent the fish from swallowing the hook (setting the hook is not necessary with circle hooks).
- Reduce the fight time. The longer the fish fights, the higher the stress level for the fish. This is particularly important when fishing for trout in periods of warmer water temperatures. If it takes you a long time to land a fish, your drag may be set too loosely or your gear may be too light for the fish you are catching.
- Use a fine-mesh landing net to reduce the amount of time required to land a fish.
- If the hook is swallowed, do not forcefully remove it. Cut the line as close to the mouth as possible and then release the fish.



### FRESHWATER SPORTFISHING AWARDS

Catch and Release Anglers: Remember to take a picture before releasing the fish at the site of capture. This photograph shows the proper method for measuring and photographing a Catch and Release awards entry.

- Wet your hands before touching the fish so you don't damage the protective mucous layer on the outside of the fish.
- Don't use the gills or eyes as a handhold. Support the belly of larger fish. Bass can be safely handled by holding the lower jaw, thumb in the mouth and forefinger under the chin.
- Quickly return fish to the water. Revive a fatigued fish by supporting it in a swimming position in the water; gently move it back and forth until it can swim off.

## IMPROVED TROUT STOCKING REPORT PROVIDES MORE OPTIONS FOR ANGLERS

Massachusetts anglers can go to [mass.gov/trout](http://mass.gov/trout) to view a list or a map displaying trout stocking information, which is updated daily during the stocking seasons!

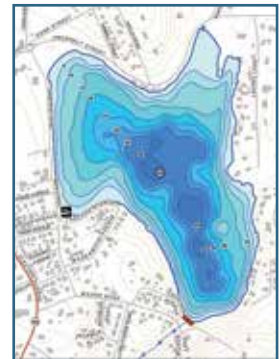
Anglers seeking stocking reports for a particular water body or town should use the table to locate information. Type the name of the water body or town into the search window to find all stocking reports for that location. The table also allows users to sort by town, water body, stocking date, type of fish, or district. Note: All districts are now displayed on the same table.

The new map component of the stocking report allows users to zoom and pan to regions of the state and discover new destinations for fishing. The default map view shows the entire state, zoom to the area you would like to explore and then click on any thumbtack icon to view the dates and types of fish that have been stocked at that location. Stocking locations on streams are accurate, but fish swim, so be sure to investigate other reaches of the stream as well.

Don't forget your fishing license - available online at [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt) at MassWildlife offices, or at license vendors. The stocking report is still subject to change depending on staffing, equipment, and weather conditions.

## FINDING FISH WITH POND MAPS

MassWildlife has provided maps of popular waterbodies to anglers and boaters since the 1950s. These maps contain information regarding stocking, public access, resident fish species, and a bathymetric (depth) map. Bathymetric maps are



extremely useful to anglers, as different fish species often associate with specific underwater features. For example, bass prefer steep drop-offs and submerged plateaus, while trout occupy deeper, colder water.

Recently, MassWildlife began updating these bathymetric maps using new technology that renders underwater terrain with 100x the precision as the original maps. These new, more detailed maps allow anglers to focus their efforts within the habitats they choose with unparalleled accuracy. Anglers who ice fish or fish from shore will find these maps particularly valuable as personal depth finders are not applicable.

Anglers can find pond maps at [mass.gov/dfw/pond-maps](http://mass.gov/dfw/pond-maps).

# ICE STRENGTH AND SAFETY TIPS

This ice strength and safety information is presented for the benefit of ice anglers and other winter sports people recreating on iced-over bodies of water.

The figures in the table to the right are for clear, blue ice on lakes and ponds. Reduce strength values 15% for clear blue, river ice. Slush or snow (white) ice is only one-half the strength of blue ice and can be very treacherous. "Honeycombed" ice, which occurs in the spring or during major winter thaws as the ice is melting, is the most dangerous ice, and best avoided unless the angler is certain there is a safe layer of solid ice beneath the honeycombed surface.

Anglers should also be aware that many lakes and ponds contain spring holes and other areas of current that may create deceptively dangerous thin spots in areas that are otherwise safe. Always use caution, and don't venture out onto unfamiliar waters without checking ice thickness frequently.

## ICE THICKNESS AND STRENGTH

ICE THICKNESS (INCHES)	PERMISSIBLE LOAD (ON NEW* CLEAR/BUE** ICE ON LAKES OR PONDS)
2" or less	STAY OFF!
4"	Ice fishing or other activities on foot
5"	Snowmobile or ATV
8" - 12"	Car or small pickup truck
12" - 15"	Medium truck

\* New ice is stronger than older ice.

\*\* White ice or "snow ice" is only about half as strong as new clear ice. Double the above thickness guidelines when traveling on white ice.

## HOW CAN YOU TELL IF ICE IS SAFE?

There are no guarantees. Always consider ice potentially dangerous. Assess ice safety by using an ice chisel to chop a hole in the ice to determine its thickness and condition. Make sure you continue to do this as you go further out on to the ice, because the thick-

ness of the ice will not be uniform all over the pond or lake. Be aware that ice tends to be thinner on lakes and ponds where there are spring holes, inlets or outlets. Don't venture onto ice-bound rivers or streams as the currents make ice thickness unpredictable.

**For other ice safety tips and winter weather preparedness, visit [mass.gov/mema](http://mass.gov/mema).**

## IF YOU, A COMPANION, OR PET FALLS THROUGH THE ICE

As with any emergency, don't panic! Call for help if there are people nearby. While it doesn't take long for the cold water to start slowing your physical and mental functions, you have more time than you might think; typically 2-5 minutes and perhaps longer if you are in good, physical condition. Air will remain trapped in your clothes for a short time aiding your

buoyancy. Kick your legs while grasping for firm ice. **Try to pull your body up using "ice pins" that should be hanging around your neck.** Once your torso is on firm ice, roll towards thicker ice. This will better distribute your weight. Remember that ice you previously walked on should be the safest. After you reach safe ice, don't waste precious time, you need to warm up and dry out. If you are in a remote area, this means getting to or starting a campfire. If you are in a more urban setting get to a car or house. Once there, get out of wet clothes, change into dry clothes to get warmed up and seek advice from your physician on medical attention. You need to warm up quickly to prevent hypothermia.

If a companion falls through the ice remember the phrase "**Reach-Throw-Go.**" If you are unable to **reach** your friend from shore, **throw** him or her a rope, jumper cables, tree branch, or other object. If this does not work, **go** for help before you also become a victim. Get medical assistance for the victim immediately.

When walking on or near ice, keep your pets on a leash. If a pet falls through the ice do not attempt to rescue the pet, go for help. Well meaning pet owners can too easily become rescue victims when trying to assist their pets.

Outdoor recreation activities on the ice are safe pursuits. By using a little common sense, these activities will stay that way.



Photo © Bill Byrne



# MASSACHUSETTS BOATING LAWS: A SUMMARY

**BOAT REGISTRATION:** Registration and numbering of all motorized boats is required. This includes electric motors.

**MINIMUM AGE RESTRICTIONS:** No person under 12 years of age may operate a motorboat, unless accompanied on-board and directly supervised by a competent person 18 years of age or older. Personal watercraft (PWC) users must be at least 16 years of age in order to operate.

**BOAT SAFETY EDUCATION CERTIFICATION:** Youth between 12 and 15 years of age must complete an approved basic boating course in order to operate a motorboat without adult supervision. Upon successful completion of such a course, students are issued a state "boating safety certificate" which must be in the possession of the certified operator when underway. Prospective personal watercraft users 16 or 17 years of age must also complete an approved boating course.

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT:** Personal Flotation Devices (life jackets) are required to be worn by: (1) youth less than 12 years of age, (2) personal watercraft users, (3) water-skiers, and (4) canoeists/kayakers from September 15 – May 15. A boat owner or a boat operator is responsible to ensure that all passengers on-board wear or have access to life jackets. All motorboats (with the exception of personal watercraft) must be equipped with an anchor, manual bailer, and line. A paddle or an oar is required on boats less than 16 feet in length. Motorboats towing water-skiers must be equipped with a boarding ladder.

## BOATING PROHIBITIONS

The following types of operation are extremely unsafe and are prohibited.

- Operating any vessel under the influence of alcohol (BAC of .08 or greater) or drugs.
- Operating a motorboat within 150 feet of swimming areas.
- Operating in inland waters at a speed greater than 45 mph or operating at an excessive speed without regard for weather conditions, boat traffic, and other hazards.
- Operating a motorboat without properly working lights.
- Operating a motorboat during the nighttime while towing water-skiers, tubers, or others.
- Operating at greater than headway speed (6 mph or less) within 150 feet of a swimmer, water-skier, mooring area, marina, boat launch, or when the operator's vision is obscured in any way.
- Operating an overloaded vessel (carrying total weight that exceeds capacity plate recommendations or is excessive due to water conditions).
- Operating with passengers on the bow, gunwales, or any other place from which a person could fall overboard.

## PERSONAL WATERCRAFT OPERATION

By law, personal watercraft (PWC) operators are considered motorboat operators and must comply with all boating laws and navigation rules. In addition, PWC users must:

- Wear an approved life jacket at all times (operator and passengers).
- Attach the safety lanyard to the operator and the cutoff/kill switch.
- Always operate at slow, no-wake speed (6 mph or less) within 150 feet of swimmers, shorelines, water-skiers, boat launches, rafts or floats, and moored or docked boats.

### PWC Operation is prohibited:

- By any person under age 16
- Between the hours of sunset and sunrise (i.e. night time)
- At high speed in congested areas
- On waterbodies under 75 acres
- Towing (water-skiers, tubers, boats, or others) is illegal.

**ACCIDENT REPORTING:** The operator of any motorboat involved in an accident which results in personal injury, death, or property damage (over \$500) must immediately notify the Massachusetts Environmental Police and file the appropriate accident report within 5 days for most boating accidents, within 2 days for boating incidents involving fatalities.

For further information on boating laws, boating education, or to obtain accident report forms contact the Massachusetts Environmental Police Boat & Recreation Vehicle Safety Bureau at (508) 564-4961 or visit [www.mass.gov/ole](http://www.mass.gov/ole).

**Boat Smart  
From the Start  
Wear Your  
Life Jacket!**

## GOT LIFE JACKETS?

From September 15 to May 15 all canoe or kayak occupants **MUST WEAR** a U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD).





# GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

**ACCIDENTS:** All hunting-related injuries or deaths **MUST** be reported to state or local police and to the Environmental Police.

**ARCHERY:** Poisoned arrows, or explosive tips, including firearms cartridges affixed to the end of arrows in such a way as they discharge upon impact with the target, or bows drawn by mechanical means, except for crossbows as permitted, are prohibited. Mechanical releases are permitted. Arrows used on deer, bear, or turkey must have well-sharpened steel broadhead blades not less than  $\frac{7}{8}$  inches in width. Expanding broadheads are legal for deer, bear, and turkey hunting. All bows, except permitted crossbows, used for hunting (recurve, long, and compound) must have a draw weight of at least 40 lbs. at 28 inches or at peak draw. No arrows may be released within 150 feet of, or across, any state or hard-surfaced highway, and hunting is prohibited within 500 feet of any dwelling or building in use, unless authorized by the owner or occupant thereof.

A firearms license (FID or LTC card) is not required for bowhunting. Archers shall not possess firearms on their person or use dogs while hunting deer. (See deer regulations on page 36.) Archers may hunt with a bow and arrow during the shotgun and primitive firearms deer seasons, but must comply with all regulations of those seasons, including the hunter orange and Primitive Firearms Stamp requirements. Crossbows may be used by certain permanently disabled persons by permit only. For regulations and an application, visit [mass.gov/masswildlife](http://mass.gov/masswildlife) or contact MassWildlife at (508) 389-6300.

**BLAZE ORANGE:** No person shall hunt during the pheasant or quail season on WMAs where pheasant or quail are stocked



Photo © Bill Byrne

without wearing a “blaze orange” cap or hat except while night-hunting for raccoons or opossums, or while hunting waterfowl from a blind or boat. During the period when it is legal to hunt deer with a shotgun, all hunters, except waterfowl hunters on coastal waters hunting within a blind or from a boat, must wear, in a conspicuous manner on chest, back, and head, a minimum of 500 square inches of “blaze orange” clothing or material. During the primitive firearms season, all deer hunters must comply with the 500 sq. inch blaze orange requirement.

**HUNTING DOGS:** May be trained at any time (except during the shotgun season for deer) provided that only pistols or

revolvers and blank cartridges are used or possessed. No sporting or hunting license is necessary. During the shotgun deer season, dogs may be used for waterfowl hunting on coastal waters only. Hunting bear or bobcat with dogs, or training dogs on those species, is prohibited.

**TREE STANDS:** Persons must have written permission of the landowner (on either public or private lands) to construct or use any tree stand which is fastened to a tree by nails, bolts, wire, or other fasteners that intrude through the bark into the wood of the tree, or that is fastened or erected in any manner and is emplaced for a period exceeding 30 days. This includes hang-on tree stands.

## NON-RESIDENT HUNTERS:

- Must have successfully completed a Basic Hunter Education course or held a hunting license anywhere in North America prior to 2007 in order to purchase a Massachusetts hunting license. Nonresident adults and minors (ages 15–17) purchase the same class license, H5 or H6, see page 10.
- Must have a valid Massachusetts non-resident hunting license in order to hunt.
- Must obtain the same stamps and permits as residents. Permit and stamp fees are the same for residents and non-residents. Non-resident migratory game bird hunters must complete a Massachusetts H.I.P. survey to hunt.
- May not purchase ammunition in Massachusetts (including materials used in black powder firearms).
- Must have their firearms unloaded and enclosed in a case while travelling into or through Massachusetts.
- No gun license (FID) is needed to possess or transport long guns.
- Must contact the Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB) Firearms Support Services, 200 Arlington St., Suite 2200, Chelsea, MA 02150, tel. (617) 660-4780 for information on handgun permits.

## FEDERAL WILDLIFE LAW INFORMATION

Please note that fishing and hunting laws on federal parks, refuges, and reservations, such as those controlled by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or the National Park Service, may differ from state regulations. Contact the agency in question.





# WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS

The Division of Fisheries & Wildlife owns Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Wildlife Conservation Easements that are open to hunting, fishing, and trapping. Maps are available for many of these properties on the MassWildlife website and at all Mass-Wildlife offices.

1. No person shall possess any alcoholic beverage except under permit, or dump or discard any can, bottle, or rubbish.
2. No person shall remove vegetation, soil, or stones from any WMA except under permit.
3. No person shall use excessive speed in driving a vehicle.
4. No person, unless under permit, shall drive or possess any motor vehicle except on roads or trails maintained for public vehicular traffic.
5. No person shall deface or tamper with any sign, building, or equipment.
6. No person shall build or maintain a fire without written permission from the Director or designee.
7. No person shall camp within any WMA without written permission from the Director or designee.
8. No person shall engage in target practice without written permission from the Director or designee.
9. No person shall use any means other than shotgun or bow and arrow during the pheasant and quail season on areas stocked with pheasant or quail except for hunting raccoons and opossums between 9pm and 3am, or for the shooting of captured fur-bearing mammals by a licensed trapper.
10. No person shall hunt before sunrise or after sunset on any WMA where pheasant or quail are stocked during the open season on pheasant or quail, except for the hunting of raccoons and opossums between 9pm and 3am.
11. No person shall hunt during the pheasant or quail season on WMAs where pheasant or quail are stocked without wearing a "blaze orange" cap or hat except while night hunting for raccoons or opossums or while hunting waterfowl from within a blind or boat.
12. No person, except under permit, shall dig or disturb any artifact or archaeological remains.
13. The Director may make special regulations to handle special situations peculiar to any WMA. Controlled hunts are in effect at certain times on Martin Burns, Delaney, and Ludlow WMAs. Contact District Manager for details.

## NEW TO HUNTING?

For outdoor skills education opportunities for novice, youth, and women hunters, see page 47.

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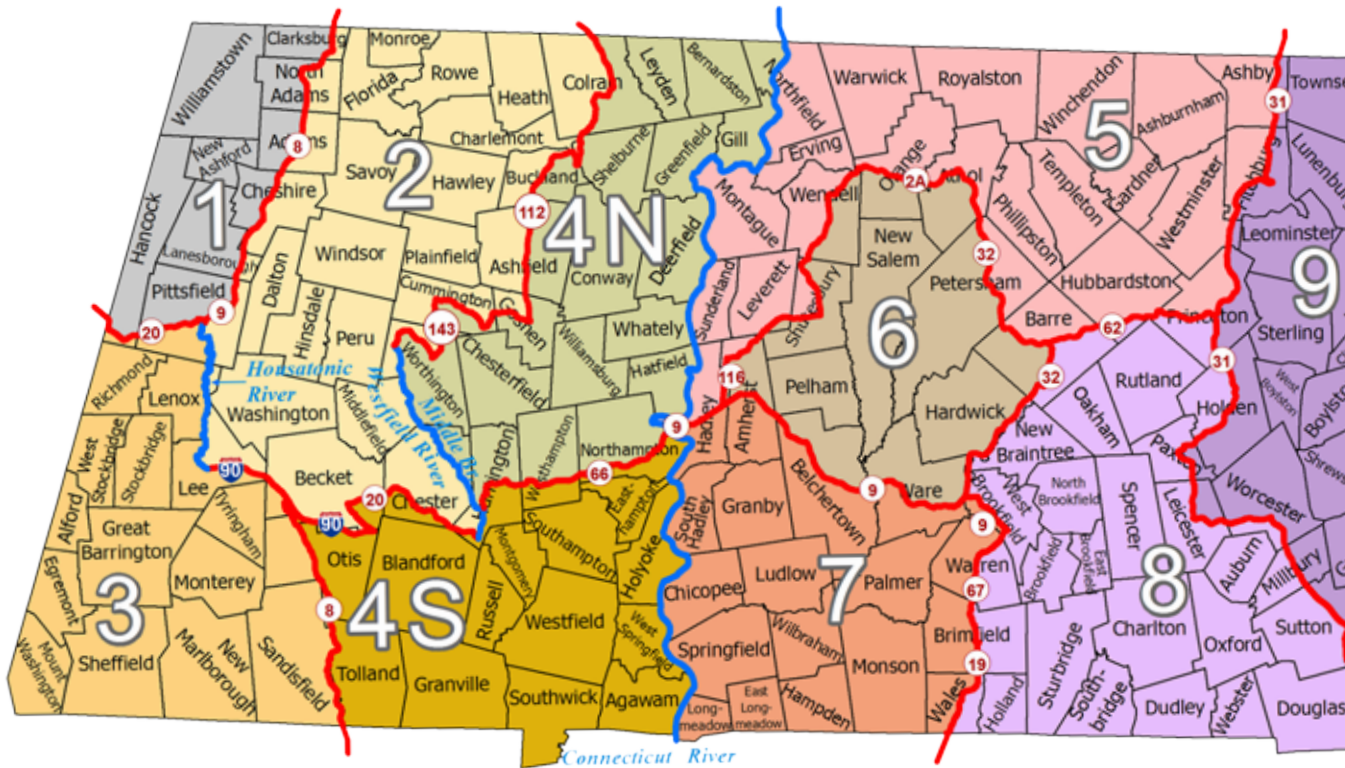
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# WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ZONES



**ZONE 1:** Northerly by the Vermont border; westerly by the New York border; southerly by a line running along Rt. 20 to the junction with Rt. 7 in Pittsfield, north on Rt. 7 to Rt. 9, and east on Rt. 9 to the junction with Rt. 8, and easterly by a line running from the Vermont border south along Route 8 to Rt. 9 in Pittsfield.

**ZONE 2:** Northerly by the Vermont border; westerly by Zone 01 and 03; southerly by the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) from the intersection with the Housatonic River in Lee east to the intersection Algeria Road in Becket and easterly by a line running from the Vermont border south along Rt. 112 to Rt. 143 in Worthington, along Rt. 143 west to the intersection with the Middle Branch of the Westfield River (also known as Trout Brook), then south along the Middle Branch of the Westfield River to the intersection with the East Branch of the Westfield River, south along the East Branch of the Westfield River to Rt. 20 in Huntington, west along Rt. 20 to Bonny Rigg Hill Road in Becket, south on Bonny Rigg Hill Road to the intersection with Algeria Road, then south on Algeria Road to the Massachusetts Turnpike.

**ZONE 3:** Northerly by Zone 01; westerly by the New York border; southerly by the New York and Connecticut border; and easterly by a line running south along Elm Street from the junction with Rt. 9 in Pittsfield to the Housatonic River, south along the Housatonic River to the junction with the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) in Lee, east along I-90 to the junction with Rt. 8 in West Becket, and south along Rt. 8 to the Connecticut border.

**ZONE 4 NORTH:** Northerly by the Vermont border; westerly by Zones 02; southerly by a line running north from the confluence of the Middle Branch and the East Branch of the Westfield River in Huntington along the East Branch of the Westfield River to the intersection with Route 66, along Rt. 66 to the intersection with Rt. 9 in Northampton, easterly along Rt. 9 to the intersection with the Connecticut River at the Northampton/Hadley town line; and easterly by the Connecticut River.

**ZONE 4 SOUTH:** Northerly by Zones 2 and 4N; westerly by Zone 3; southerly by the Connecticut border; and easterly by the Connecticut River.

**ZONE 5:** Northerly by the New Hampshire border; westerly by the Connecticut River; southerly by a line running from the intersection of the Connecticut River and Rte. 9 at the Northampton/Hadley line east along Rte. 9 to Rte. 116 in Hadley, north along Rte. 116 to Rte. 63 in North Amherst, east along Rte. 63 and Pine Street to State Street, northeast along State Street and East Leverett Road to Cushman Road, along Cushman Road to Shutesbury Road in East Leverett, east on Shutesbury Road and Leverett Road to Wendell Road in Shutesbury Center, north along Wendell Road to Locks Pond Road, north on Locks Pond Road to Lake View Road, northeast on Lake View Road to Locks Village Road, north along Locks Village Road to Depot Road in Wendell, north on Depot Road to Rte. 2A in Orange, east on Rte. 2A to Rte. 32 in Athol, south on Rte. 32 to Rte. 62 in Barre, and east on Rte. 62 to the intersection with Rte. 31 in Princeton; and easterly by a line running north on Rte. 31 to the New Hampshire border.

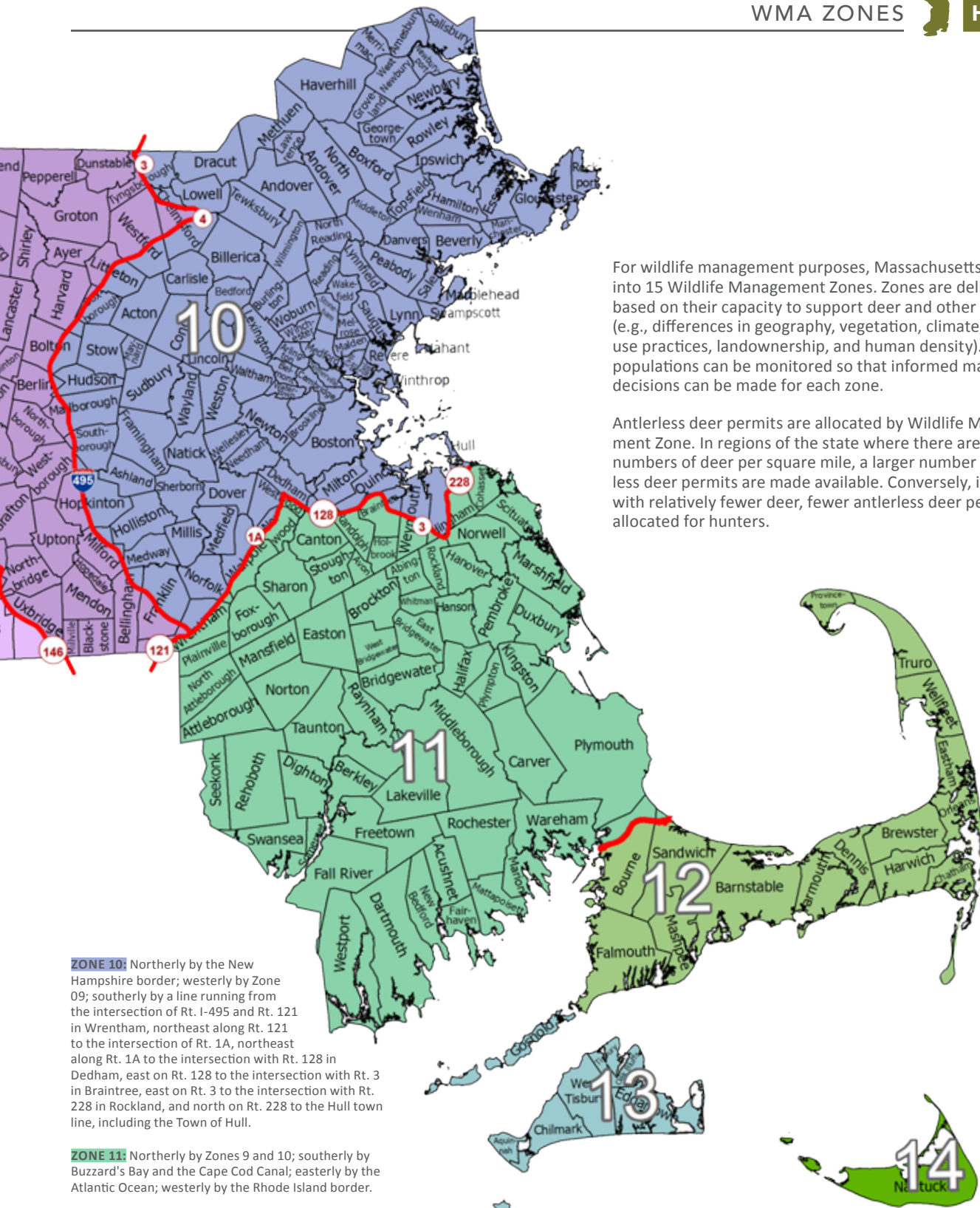
**ZONE 6:** Northerly by Zone 05; westerly by Zone 05; southerly by a line running from the intersection of Rt. 9 and Rt. 116 in Hadley east along Rt. 9 to the intersection with Rt. 32 in Ware; and easterly by a line running from the intersection of Rt. 32 and Rt. 62 in Barre, south along Rt. 32 to the intersection with Rt. 9 in Ware.

**ZONE 7:** Northerly by Zones 5 and 6; westerly by the eastern boundary of Zone 04S; southerly by the Connecticut border; easterly by a line running from the intersection of Rte. 9 and Rte. 32 in Ware, east along Rte. 9 to the intersection with Rte. 67, southwest along Rte. 67 to the intersection with Rte. 19 in Warren, and south along Rte. 19 to the Connecticut border.

**ZONE 8:** Northerly by Zone 05; westerly by Zones 06 and 07; southerly by the Connecticut and Rhode Island borders; and easterly by a line running from the intersection of Rt. 62 and Rt. 31 in Princeton south on Rt. 31 to Rt. 56 in Paxton, south on Rt. 56 to Rt. 9 in Leicester, east on Rt. 9 to Cambridge Street in Worcester, east on Cambridge Street to Rt. 146, and southeast on Rt. 146 to the Rhode Island border.

**ZONE 9:** Northerly by the New Hampshire border; southerly by the Rhode Island border; easterly by the following: Rte. 3 from New Hampshire southeast to Rte. I-495 south to Rte. 121 in Wrentham, Rte. 121 southwest to the Rhode Island border; westerly by Zones 5 and 8.





For wildlife management purposes, Massachusetts is broken into 15 Wildlife Management Zones. Zones are delineated based on their capacity to support deer and other wildlife (e.g., differences in geography, vegetation, climate, soil, land use practices, landownership, and human density). Wildlife populations can be monitored so that informed management decisions can be made for each zone.

Antlerless deer permits are allocated by Wildlife Management Zone. In regions of the state where there are high numbers of deer per square mile, a larger number of antlerless deer permits are made available. Conversely, in regions with relatively fewer deer, fewer antlerless deer permits are allocated for hunters.



## MASSACHUSETTS GUN LAWS

**POSSESSION:** For hunting, resident citizens ages 15 and over must have a Firearms Identification Card (FID) to possess a low-capacity rifle or shotgun. A License To Carry (LTC) (age 21 and over) is needed to possess large capacity rifles and shotguns and all handguns. **These gun licenses are issued by local Police Departments.** Non-residents with a valid Massachusetts non-resident hunting license do not need an LTC or FID to possess or carry a rifle or shotgun, but must carry their firearms unloaded and in a case while traveling in their vehicles. Non-residents may not purchase guns or ammunition in Massachusetts. To obtain a non-resident License To Carry or a non-resident permit to possess handguns, contact the CHSB (Criminal History Systems Board), Firearms Support Services (see below). No gun license is needed by bow hunters, nor by minors 12-14 years old hunting with a duly licensed adult, nor for the possession of primitive rifles or shotguns as defined in MGL Ch. 140, Section 121, or their ammunition. However, an LTC or FID is required to purchase all ammunition including black powder and Pyrodex.

**CAUTION:** Massachusetts public safety laws define primitive arms differently from the laws and regulations of MassWildlife.

**TRAVEL:** Rifles, shotguns, and muzzleloaders may not be carried on public ways unless the person is lawfully engaged in hunting. When transported in a motor vehicle, rifles, shotguns, and muzzleloaders must be unloaded and in an enclosed case. A large capacity firearm must be carried unloaded and contained within a locked trunk or in a locked case or other secure container.

**STORAGE:** State law requires that whenever a gun is not under your direct control, it must be kept in a locked container or equipped with a tamper-resistant mechanical lock. Muzzleloaders are exempt from this requirement.

**PENALTIES:** License revoked for one year in addition to other penalties; fines of up to \$1,000; restitution; and/or 1 year in jail. Careless and negligent use of firearms: fines of up to \$500 and/or 6 months imprisonment and loss of license for 5 years.

For more gun law information, contact the Massachusetts Firearms Records Bureau, 200 Arlington St., Suite 2200, Chelsea, MA 02150, (617) 660-4780, or [mass.gov/cjis](http://mass.gov/cjis).

## HUNTER HARASSMENT

Hunter harassment is against state law. Report violations to the Environmental Police (800) 632-8075 or to state or local police. Be prepared to provide a description of violators and/or a description and license plate number of the car.

## CLOSED HUNTING SEASONS

Hunting seasons are closed throughout the year on all birds and mammals not mentioned herein or in Massachusetts Migratory Game Bird Regulations. During shotgun deer season all hunting seasons are closed except for deer, bear, coyote, and waterfowl.

## RESTRICTIONS DURING THE YOUTH DEER HUNT

The Youth Deer Hunt Day will be held on September 30, 2017. If hunting other game animals on this date, additional requirements must be followed: rifles and handguns are prohibited for hunting any game; dogs may not be used for hunting any game except for waterfowl hunting (ducks and geese) on coastal waters and salt marshes; all hunters must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of blaze orange on their chest, back, and head; waterfowl hunters are required to wear blaze orange in transit to and from their blind or boat.

## OPEN HUNTING SEASONS

The following species may be taken year-round (except during shotgun deer season) by licensed hunters with no daily or seasonal bag limit: English sparrow, flying squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine, skunk, starling, weasel, woodchuck.

## TEN BASIC RULES OF FIREARM SAFETY

1. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
2. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Keep the action open and unloaded. Keep the safety "on" and your finger off the trigger.
3. Be sure the barrel of the firearm is clear of obstructions. Check the chamber and magazine every time you pick it up. Only carry and use ammunition appropriate for your firearm.
4. Never point a firearm at anything you do not intend to shoot. Agree to safe fields of fire for yourself and hunting companions and never swing beyond your area.
5. Positively identify your target and what lies beyond. Make sure there is an adequate backstop when hunting or target practicing.
6. Unload your firearm when climbing a tree, crossing a fence, jumping a ditch or traversing slippery or steep terrain. Never pull a firearm toward you by the muzzle.
7. Be aware of the potential for ricochet. Never shoot at a hard, flat surface or water.
8. Unload firearms when not in use, leaving the action open. Transport and carry firearms unloaded and cased when traveling to and from the field or target practice.
9. Store firearms and ammunition separately in locked compartments and beyond the reach of children.
10. Never use alcohol or drugs that can impair your judgment before or while shooting.



## HUNTING HOURS

Hunting hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset on each day of open season (see Sunrise-Sunset table, page 11) **except** for:

- Rabbit, hare, fox, and coyote hunting, which close at midnight, except during the shotgun deer season when coyote hunting closes ½ hour after sunset.
- Spring turkey hunting (see page 32).
- Raccoon and opossum hunting (see page 42).
- WMA Reg. #10 (page 23) which states that no person shall hunt before sunrise or after sunset on any WMA where pheasant or quail are stocked during the pheasant or quail season except for the hunting of raccoons and opossums between 9pm and 3am.
- Migratory game bird hunting, which is ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

## HARVEST REPORTING

Upon harvesting a deer, bear, or turkey, you must immediately fill out and attach the paper tag from your permit or license to the carcass. Your game must remain intact (other than field dressing), with the harvest tag attached, until it is reported and prepared for food or taxidermy purposes. Hunters may report their harvested game online or bring their game to an official check station. **All deer harvested during the 2-week shotgun deer season must be brought to an official check station for biological data collection.** For detailed information on Online Game Check, visit the Game Check Station page on [mass.gov/dfw/checkstation](http://mass.gov/dfw/checkstation). If you report your harvest online, you will be issued a confirmation number. You must write the number on the harvest tag attached to the carcass. The harvest tag with harvest report confirmation number must remain attached to the carcass until it is prepared for food or taxidermy purposes. Hunters who harvest a deer, bear, or turkey are required to check their game within 48 hours of killing the animal. A complete list of official checking stations is on MassWildlife website [mass.gov/dfw/checkstation](http://mass.gov/dfw/checkstation). For general furbearer checking requirements, see page 44.

## RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (ATVS, OHVS, DIRT BIKES, ETC.)

It is illegal to operate any motorized vehicle on any WMA or other property owned or controlled by MassWildlife; and on most state park and state forest lands. It is illegal to operate these vehicles on private lands without the written permission of the landowner. Age restrictions apply; operators under the age of 18 must take a safety course. For more information, contact the Massachusetts Environmental Police at 1-800-632-8075, or go to [mass.gov/ole](http://mass.gov/ole) and click on the Safety Bureau link.

A portion of the revenue from vehicle registration is used to support legal riding opportunities; to find a list of State Parks and Forests that allow OHV operation visit: [mass.gov/dcr/orv](http://mass.gov/dcr/orv).

## LANDOWNER LIABILITY

Landowners permitting use of their property for recreation without charging a fee are not liable for injuries to recreational users of the property except in cases of willful, wanton, or reckless conduct by the owner. (MGL Ch. 21 § 17C)

## BEAR SPRAY /SELF-DEFENSE SPRAY

Laws pertaining to self-defense sprays are outlined in M.G.L. c. 140 § 122D. For information about carrying and using self-defense spray as a bear deterrent go to [mass.gov/bears](http://mass.gov/bears) and click on FAQs.



### 7-INCH TAPERED FLEX FILLET

- High carbon steel with full tang construction
- Razor sharp serrated blade with non-stick coating
- Big red no-slip-grip handle with safety guards and trigger grip



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## Quail Ridge Kennel & Preserve



[www.QuailRidgeKennelAndPreserve.com](http://www.QuailRidgeKennelAndPreserve.com)

We offer German Shorthair pups from high quality bloodlines, occasionally started or finished dogs are available.

Custom guided hunts on our exquisite shooting preserve guarantee a satisfying yield of pheasant and chukar partridge.

Professional training for all sporting breeds.

Grooming shop and all breed boarding.



Contact Steve Hopko for details 860.684.2252





# 2017 SUNRISE-SUNSET TABLE

## FOR WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

	JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
DAY	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
1	7:16	4:25	7:01	5:01	6:22	5:38	<b>6:29</b>	<b>7:14</b>	<b>5:42</b>	<b>7:47</b>	<b>5:13</b>	<b>8:18</b>	<b>5:15</b>	<b>8:27</b>	<b>5:41</b>	<b>8:06</b>	<b>6:13</b>	<b>7:20</b>	<b>6:45</b>	<b>6:28</b>	<b>7:21</b>	<b>5:40</b>	6:57	4:16
2	7:16	4:26	7:00	5:02	6:20	5:39	<b>6:27</b>	<b>7:15</b>	<b>5:41</b>	<b>7:48</b>	<b>5:13</b>	<b>8:18</b>	<b>5:15</b>	<b>8:27</b>	<b>5:42</b>	<b>8:05</b>	<b>6:14</b>	<b>7:19</b>	<b>6:46</b>	<b>6:26</b>	<b>7:22</b>	<b>5:39</b>	6:58	4:16
3	7:16	4:27	6:59	5:04	6:18	5:40	<b>6:26</b>	<b>7:16</b>	<b>5:39</b>	<b>7:49</b>	<b>5:12</b>	<b>8:19</b>	<b>5:16</b>	<b>8:27</b>	<b>5:43</b>	<b>8:03</b>	<b>6:15</b>	<b>7:17</b>	<b>6:47</b>	<b>6:24</b>	<b>7:23</b>	<b>5:38</b>	6:59	4:15
4	7:16	4:28	6:58	5:05	6:17	5:41	<b>6:24</b>	<b>7:17</b>	<b>5:38</b>	<b>7:51</b>	<b>5:12</b>	<b>8:20</b>	<b>5:16</b>	<b>8:27</b>	<b>5:44</b>	<b>8:02</b>	<b>6:16</b>	<b>7:15</b>	<b>6:48</b>	<b>6:23</b>	<b>7:25</b>	<b>5:36</b>	7:00	4:15
5	7:16	4:29	6:57	5:06	6:15	5:43	<b>6:22</b>	<b>7:18</b>	<b>5:37</b>	<b>7:52</b>	<b>5:12</b>	<b>8:20</b>	<b>5:17</b>	<b>8:26</b>	<b>5:45</b>	<b>8:01</b>	<b>6:17</b>	<b>7:13</b>	<b>6:49</b>	<b>6:21</b>	<b>7:26</b>	<b>5:35</b>	7:01	4:15
6	7:16	4:30	6:56	5:07	6:14	5:44	<b>6:20</b>	<b>7:19</b>	<b>5:36</b>	<b>7:53</b>	<b>5:11</b>	<b>8:21</b>	<b>5:18</b>	<b>8:26</b>	<b>5:46</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>6:18</b>	<b>7:12</b>	<b>6:50</b>	<b>6:19</b>	<b>6:27</b>	<b>4:34</b>	7:02	4:15
7	7:16	4:31	6:54	5:09	6:12	5:45	<b>6:19</b>	<b>7:20</b>	<b>5:34</b>	<b>7:54</b>	<b>5:11</b>	<b>8:22</b>	<b>5:18</b>	<b>8:26</b>	<b>5:47</b>	<b>7:58</b>	<b>6:19</b>	<b>7:10</b>	<b>6:51</b>	<b>6:18</b>	<b>6:28</b>	<b>4:33</b>	7:03	4:15
8	7:16	4:32	6:53	5:10	6:10	5:46	<b>6:17</b>	<b>7:21</b>	<b>5:33</b>	<b>7:55</b>	<b>5:11</b>	<b>8:22</b>	<b>5:19</b>	<b>8:25</b>	<b>5:48</b>	<b>7:57</b>	<b>6:20</b>	<b>7:08</b>	<b>6:53</b>	<b>6:16</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>4:32</b>	7:04	4:15
9	7:16	4:33	6:52	5:11	6:09	5:47	<b>6:15</b>	<b>7:23</b>	<b>5:32</b>	<b>7:56</b>	<b>5:11</b>	<b>8:23</b>	<b>5:20</b>	<b>8:25</b>	<b>5:49</b>	<b>7:56</b>	<b>6:21</b>	<b>7:07</b>	<b>6:54</b>	<b>6:14</b>	<b>6:31</b>	<b>4:31</b>	7:05	4:15
10	7:15	4:34	6:51	5:13	6:07	5:49	<b>6:14</b>	<b>7:24</b>	<b>5:31</b>	<b>7:57</b>	<b>5:10</b>	<b>8:23</b>	<b>5:21</b>	<b>8:24</b>	<b>5:50</b>	<b>7:54</b>	<b>6:22</b>	<b>7:05</b>	<b>6:55</b>	<b>6:13</b>	<b>6:32</b>	<b>4:30</b>	7:06	4:15
11	7:15	4:35	6:50	5:14	6:05	5:50	<b>6:12</b>	<b>7:25</b>	<b>5:30</b>	<b>7:58</b>	<b>5:10</b>	<b>8:24</b>	<b>5:21</b>	<b>8:24</b>	<b>5:51</b>	<b>7:53</b>	<b>6:24</b>	<b>7:03</b>	<b>6:56</b>	<b>6:11</b>	<b>6:33</b>	<b>4:29</b>	7:06	4:15
12	7:15	4:36	6:48	5:15	<b>7:03</b>	<b>6:51</b>	<b>6:11</b>	<b>7:26</b>	<b>5:29</b>	<b>7:59</b>	<b>5:10</b>	<b>8:24</b>	<b>5:22</b>	<b>8:23</b>	<b>5:52</b>	<b>7:52</b>	<b>6:25</b>	<b>7:01</b>	<b>6:57</b>	<b>6:09</b>	<b>6:35</b>	<b>4:28</b>	7:07	4:15
13	7:15	4:37	6:47	5:17	<b>7:02</b>	<b>6:52</b>	<b>6:09</b>	<b>7:27</b>	<b>5:28</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>5:10</b>	<b>8:25</b>	<b>5:23</b>	<b>8:23</b>	<b>5:53</b>	<b>7:50</b>	<b>6:26</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>6:58</b>	<b>6:08</b>	<b>6:36</b>	<b>4:27</b>	7:08	4:15
14	7:14	4:39	6:46	5:18	<b>7:00</b>	<b>6:53</b>	<b>6:07</b>	<b>7:28</b>	<b>5:27</b>	<b>8:01</b>	<b>5:10</b>	<b>8:25</b>	<b>5:24</b>	<b>8:22</b>	<b>5:54</b>	<b>7:49</b>	<b>6:27</b>	<b>6:58</b>	<b>6:59</b>	<b>6:06</b>	<b>6:37</b>	<b>4:26</b>	7:09	4:16
15	7:14	4:40	6:44	5:19	<b>6:58</b>	<b>6:54</b>	<b>6:06</b>	<b>7:29</b>	<b>5:26</b>	<b>8:02</b>	<b>5:10</b>	<b>8:26</b>	<b>5:25</b>	<b>8:22</b>	<b>5:55</b>	<b>7:47</b>	<b>6:28</b>	<b>6:56</b>	<b>7:01</b>	<b>6:05</b>	<b>6:38</b>	<b>4:25</b>	7:09	4:16
16	7:13	4:41	6:43	5:20	<b>6:57</b>	<b>6:55</b>	<b>6:04</b>	<b>7:30</b>	<b>5:25</b>	<b>8:03</b>	<b>5:10</b>	<b>8:26</b>	<b>5:25</b>	<b>8:21</b>	<b>5:56</b>	<b>7:46</b>	<b>6:29</b>	<b>6:54</b>	<b>7:02</b>	<b>6:03</b>	<b>6:40</b>	<b>4:24</b>	7:10	4:16
17	7:13	4:42	6:41	5:22	<b>6:55</b>	<b>6:57</b>	<b>6:03</b>	<b>7:32</b>	<b>5:24</b>	<b>8:04</b>	<b>5:10</b>	<b>8:26</b>	<b>5:26</b>	<b>8:20</b>	<b>5:57</b>	<b>7:44</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>6:52</b>	<b>7:03</b>	<b>6:01</b>	<b>6:41</b>	<b>4:23</b>	7:11	4:16
18	7:12	4:43	6:40	5:23	<b>6:53</b>	<b>6:58</b>	<b>6:01</b>	<b>7:33</b>	<b>5:23</b>	<b>8:05</b>	<b>5:10</b>	<b>8:27</b>	<b>5:27</b>	<b>8:19</b>	<b>5:58</b>	<b>7:43</b>	<b>6:31</b>	<b>6:51</b>	<b>7:04</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>6:42</b>	<b>4:23</b>	7:11	4:17
19	7:12	4:44	6:39	5:24	<b>6:51</b>	<b>6:59</b>	<b>5:59</b>	<b>7:34</b>	<b>5:22</b>	<b>8:06</b>	<b>5:11</b>	<b>8:27</b>	<b>5:28</b>	<b>8:19</b>	<b>5:59</b>	<b>7:41</b>	<b>6:32</b>	<b>6:49</b>	<b>7:05</b>	<b>5:58</b>	<b>6:43</b>	<b>4:22</b>	7:12	4:17
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23	7:09	4:49	6:33	5:29	<b>6:45</b>	<b>7:03</b>	<b>5:53</b>	<b>7:38</b>	<b>5:19</b>	<b>8:10</b>	<b>5:11</b>	<b>8:28</b>	<b>5:32</b>	<b>8:15</b>	<b>6:04</b>	<b>7:35</b>	<b>6:36</b>	<b>6:42</b>	<b>7:10</b>	<b>5:52</b>	<b>6:48</b>	<b>4:19</b>	7:14	4:19
24	7:08	4:51	6:31	5:30	<b>6:43</b>	<b>7:05</b>	<b>5:52</b>	<b>7:39</b>	<b>5:18</b>	<b>8:11</b>	<b>5:12</b>	<b>8:28</b>	<b>5:33</b>	<b>8:14</b>	<b>6:05</b>	<b>7:33</b>	<b>6:37</b>	<b>6:40</b>	<b>7:11</b>	<b>5:51</b>	<b>6:49</b>	<b>4:19</b>	7:14	4:20
25	7:07	4:52	6:30	5:32	<b>6:41</b>	<b>7:06</b>	<b>5:50</b>	<b>7:41</b>	<b>5:17</b>	<b>8:12</b>	<b>5:12</b>	<b>8:28</b>	<b>5:34</b>	<b>8:13</b>	<b>6:06</b>	<b>7:32</b>	<b>6:38</b>	<b>6:38</b>	<b>7:12</b>	<b>5:50</b>	<b>6:50</b>	<b>4:18</b>	7:15	4:21
26	7:07	4:53	6:28	5:33	<b>6:39</b>	<b>7:07</b>	<b>5:49</b>	<b>7:42</b>	<b>5:16</b>	<b>8:13</b>	<b>5:12</b>	<b>8:28</b>	<b>5:35</b>	<b>8:12</b>	<b>6:07</b>	<b>7:30</b>	<b>6:39</b>	<b>6:37</b>	<b>7:14</b>	<b>5:48</b>	<b>6:52</b>	<b>4:18</b>	7:15	4:21
27	7:06	4:54	6:27	5:34	<b>6:38</b>	<b>7:08</b>	<b>5:48</b>	<b>7:43</b>	<b>5:16</b>	<b>8:14</b>	<b>5:13</b>	<b>8:28</b>	<b>5:36</b>	<b>8:11</b>	<b>6:08</b>	<b>7:29</b>	<b>6:40</b>	<b>6:35</b>	<b>7:15</b>	<b>5:47</b>	<b>6:53</b>	<b>4:17</b>	7:15	4:22
28	7:05	4:56	6:25	5:35	<b>6:36</b>	<b>7:09</b>	<b>5:46</b>	<b>7:44</b>	<b>5:15</b>	<b>8:14</b>	<b>5:13</b>	<b>8:28</b>	<b>5:36</b>	<b>8:10</b>	<b>6:09</b>	<b>7:27</b>	<b>6:42</b>	<b>6:33</b>	<b>7:16</b>	<b>5:45</b>	<b>6:54</b>	<b>4:17</b>	7:16	4:23
29	7:04	4:57	6:23	5:37	<b>6:34</b>	<b>7:10</b>	<b>5:45</b>	<b>7:45</b>	<b>5:15</b>	<b>8:15</b>	<b>5:14</b>	<b>8:28</b>	<b>5:37</b>	<b>8:09</b>	<b>6:10</b>	<b>7:25</b>	<b>6:43</b>	<b>6:31</b>	<b>7:17</b>	<b>5:44</b>	<b>6:55</b>	<b>4:16</b>	7:16	4:23
30	7:03	4:58			<b>6:32</b>	<b>7:11</b>	<b>5:43</b>	<b>7:46</b>	<b>5:14</b>	<b>8:16</b>	<b>5:14</b>	<b>8:28</b>	<b>5:38</b>	<b>8:08</b>	<b>6:11</b>	<b>7:24</b>	<b>6:44</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>7:19</b>	<b>5:43</b>	<b>6:56</b>	<b>4:16</b>	7:16	4:24
31	7:02	5:00			<b>6:31</b>	<b>7:12</b>			<b>5:14</b>	<b>8:17</b>			<b>5:40</b>	<b>8:07</b>	<b>6:12</b>	<b>7:22</b>			<b>7:20</b>	<b>5:41</b>			7:16	4:25

Table is Eastern Standard Time. Table has been adjusted for daylight savings time — seen in **bold**.

BOSTON subtract 3 minutes; SPRINGFIELD add 3 minutes; PITTSFIELD add 7 minutes.

Source: U. S. Naval Observatory, Astronomical Applications Department, Washington, D.C. 20392-5420

## DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE TO GO FISHING OR BOATING?

*Public Access to the Waters of Massachusetts* is a 146 page map booklet that provides information about current fishing and boating access sites. Send \$8.00 payable to the Commonwealth of MA by check to:

Office of Fishing & Boating Access  
Department of Fish & Game  
1 Rabbit Hill Road  
Westborough, MA 01581  
(508) 389-7810



To view fishing and boating access locations online, visit [mass.gov/fba](http://mass.gov/fba).



# HUNTING PROHIBITIONS

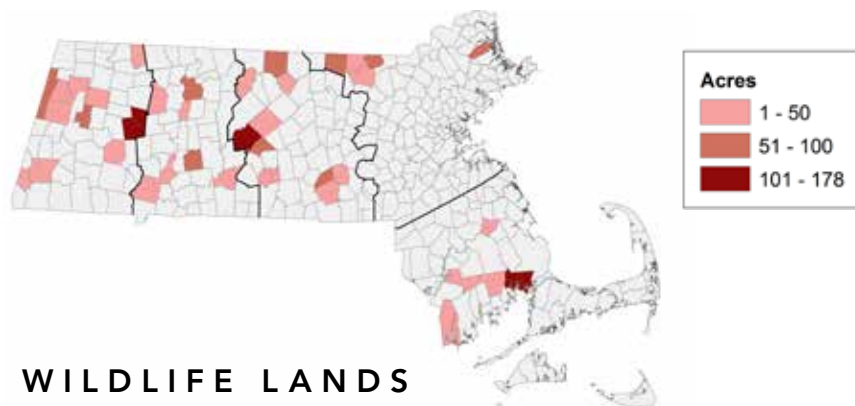
It is illegal to hunt, trap, or fish for any birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, or amphibians not listed within this *Guide* or in the *Massachusetts Migratory Game Bird Regulations*.

- Airbows: No person shall use or have in his possession or under his control while hunting any arrow gun or any firearm or other device which projects or propels an arrow, dart or bolt by gunpowder, compressed air, or by any other means except by the flexing and release of a bow string.
- Artificial lights for hunting any bird or mammal except raccoon and opossum.
- Baiting migratory game birds, wild turkey, bear, or deer during or within 10 days of the start of the season. This does not apply to the hunting of crows.
- Careless or negligent use of firearms.
- Choke traps, leghold traps, or nets for taking any bird or mammal.
- Crossbows are allowed for certain disabled persons only (see Archery, page 22).
- Decoys for hunting deer.
- Discharge of any firearm or release of any arrow upon or across any state or hard-surfaced highway, or within 150 feet of any such highway, or possession of a loaded firearm, discharge of a firearm, or hunting on the land of another within 500 feet of any dwelling or building in use, except as authorized by the owner or occupant thereof. See page 26 for additional firearms regulations.
- Electronic calls for hunting migratory game birds, wild turkey, or deer. This does not apply to the hunting of crows.
- Ferrets: It is unlawful to hunt with a ferret. Possession of non-vaccinated/un-neutered ferrets/fitches without a permit is unlawful.
- Firearms other than shotguns and bows and arrows are prohibited on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant and quail season.
- Hunting on posted land without permission.
- Hunting on Sunday.
- Importation, transportation, liberation, or possession of any live vertebrate protected under MGL Ch. 131 except under permit from the Director.
- It is illegal to import, process, or possess whole carcasses or parts of any cervids (members of the deer family) from states or provinces where Chronic Wasting Disease has been detected (including NY and PA). It is legal to import deer meat that is de-boned, cleaned skull caps, hides without the head, or a fixed taxidermy mount. No live deer, of any species, may be brought into Massachusetts for any purpose.
- Intoxication and drugs: No person under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs shall hunt, target shoot, carry a firearm, bow and arrow, or other weapon.
- Loaded shotgun or rifle in or on any motor vehicle, recreational vehicle (including snowmobiles), aircraft or motor boat, except as stated in the *Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations*.
- Machine guns, fully-automatic firearms, any tracer or incendiary ammunition for hunting.
- Moose hunting is illegal.
- Motor vehicles, off-highway vehicles (including snowmobiles), and/or aircraft for hunting any bird or mammal.
- Possession of any Massachusetts Endangered Species Act-listed plants and/or wildlife, dead or alive, except by permit.
- Possession of rifles, handguns, or dogs in any woodland or field, or use of same on any game, is prohibited during the shotgun deer season except that the use of dogs is lawful for hunting waterfowl on coastal waters.
- Power or sailboats for hunting birds except when beached or tied to a blind or for retrieving injured birds.
- Removal of any mammal from walls, or holes in trees, ground, or logs.
- Rifles chambered to take ammunition larger than .22 caliber long rifle, and pistols and revolvers chambered to take ammunition larger than .38 caliber, between the hours of ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise.
- Sale of all species of mammals and birds or parts thereof, except unprocessed heads, hides, and hooves of deer.
- Shotgun ammunition: Except as provided below, no species other than deer, coyote, or waterfowl may be hunted or taken with shot larger than #1 birdshot. Except during the prescribed open season when deer may be hunted lawfully with a shotgun, a person shall not have in his possession a shotgun shell loaded with a rifled slug, single ball, buckshot of any size, or any shot larger than or equal to air rifle shot in any place where birds or mammals may be found except on a skeet, trap, or target range between sunrise and sunset, or except for the hunting of coyotes (a) during the prescribed open season for coyotes with shot not larger than FF; or (b) during the shotgun deer season when coyotes may be hunted only with archery, muzzleloader, or shotgun—using slugs, buckshot, or shot of any size; or, except as specified in the annual *Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations*.
- Swivel or pivot guns for hunting any bird.
- Taking nests, destroying, or disturbing eggs or nests of birds.
- Target shooting on Sunday except on one's own property or on a recognized shooting range.
- Traps for taking birds except under permit. All traps except cage or box traps and common mouse or rat traps are unlawful for the taking of fur-bearing mammals.
- Vandalism or damage to property or livestock.

**PENALTIES:** License revoked for one year in addition to other penalties; fines of up to \$1,000, restitutions, and /or 1 year in jail. Careless and negligent use of firearms; fines of up to \$500 and /or 6 months imprisonment and loss of license for 5 years.

## TRANSPORT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

It is a violation of Federal Law to transport illegally taken fish or wildlife across state lines. For additional information contact the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, (617) 889-6616.



## WILDLIFE LANDS

## ACQUISITION IN FY16

The mission of the Land Protection Program, a joint effort of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife), is to protect the ecological integrity of the Commonwealth and provide wildlife-related recreational opportunities to the public. Each year the Land Protection Program seeks to expand existing wildlife lands, enhance public access to lands and waters open to sporting activity, and protect key habitats. Most of the funding for land acquisition is from bond capital, with the remaining portion provided by the Wildlands Stamp Fund, a \$5 fee added to each hunting, fishing, and trapping license sale.

Fiscal Year 2016 was a very strong year for land protection, with land agents completing 48 projects conserving 1,929 acres of valuable wildlife habitat at a cost of \$4.9 million. The majority of lands and ease-

ments were purchased, although over 400 acres were donated.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and Wildlife Conservation Easements (WCE) are open to fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife observation, and other passive wildlife-related recreation. These wildlife lands, from the Berkshires to the Cape and Islands, include river corridors, wetlands, forested and grassy uplands, habitat for state-listed endangered and threatened species, and high quality parcels of other important habitats.

In the Western District, 14 acquisitions were completed in FY16 protecting a total of 690 acres at a cost of \$1,121,080. In a far reaching effort, MassWildlife was involved in a complex transaction protecting a popular recreation area, the Boulders Reserve, located in the Pittsfield area. MassWildlife has held a conservation easement (Boulders WCE)

on this large 624-acre recreation area with longtime owner, Crane and Co. MassWildlife partnered with the Berkshires Natural Resource Council (BNRC) who was gifted the parcel by Crane and Co., while MassWildlife kept the easement. A conservation easement from three additional parcels of land totaling nearly 50 acres was purchased by MassWildlife, adding to the Reserve and WCE holding. Finally, 41 acres of the original Boulders WCE abutting the Chalet WMA off Gulf Road was gifted by BNRC to MassWildlife in fee, allowing us to make it part of the WMA.

Eight projects were concluded in the Connecticut Valley District protecting 263 acres at a cost of \$375,000. The most exciting project in this district was the once-in-a-generation addition of 93 acres of valuable and very developable habitat to the Montague Plains WMA. The Emond family conveyed this large parcel abutting the western side of the WMA after many years of negotiation.

Central District staff completed 11 acquisitions protecting 432 acres at a cost of \$1,115,920. In a project involving the sporting community, MassWildlife purchased a conservation easement protecting 100 acres of key habitat owned by the Worcester County League of Sportsmen and adjacent to the Winimuset WMA in New Braintree. The League offered the easement at a generous discount that was fully funded by the Wildlands Stamp Fund. Looking to the future, the League agreed to MassWildlife retaining right-of-first-refusal to purchase the land should the League decide to sell.

In the Northeast District, land staff completed 10 projects conserving 283 acres of land at a cost of \$848,000. Of particular note in the Northeast was a coordinated property assemblage in Townsend, where three parcels comprising 100 acres were acquired for addition to the Squannacook River WMA.

Five land conservation projects were executed in the Southeast District involving a total of 260 acres at a cost of \$1,531,000. After over 20 years of effort, a significant 27-acre purchase which included road frontage will provide vastly improved public access to the 3,000 acre Haskell Wildlife Management Area in Mattapoisett.

The 1,929 acres conserved across the Commonwealth in FY16 bring the total acreage to over 208,000 acres, which is over 325 square miles of permanently protected wildlife habitat. These lands were conserved with your help and are for your enjoyment. Start planning your next outdoor adventure, visit [mass.gov/dfw/wildlife-lands](http://mass.gov/dfw/wildlife-lands) to view maps of wildlife lands.

	WESTERN	VALLEY	CENTRAL	NORTHEAST	SOUTHEAST	TOTAL
<b>WMA</b>	45,643	18,645	37,233	13,548	42,436	157,505
<b>WCE</b>	15,648	8,389	8,736	2,085	10,728	45,586
<b>Access</b>	35	512	682	234	55	1,519
<b>Sanctuary</b>	435	0	368	552	73	1,428
<b>WCR</b>	69	2	746	127	38	983
<b>Installation</b>	2	436	0	108	114	660
<b>Other</b>	0	143	0	372	0	515
<b>TOTAL</b>	61,832	28,127	47,767	17,026	53,444	208,197

**WMA** (Wildlife Management Area) – Land owned outright by DFG/MassWildlife. Open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping and other passive recreation. Subject to Wildlife Management Area Regulations

**WCE** (Wildlife Conservation Easement) – DFG/MassWildlife owns development and recreation rights. Open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping and other passive recreation.

**Access Areas** – Property providing public recreation access to water bodies or adjacent conservation lands owned by a third party. (Does not include Office of Fishing and Boating Access boat launches, ramps or fishing piers)

**Wildlife Sanctuary** – Wildlife properties donated to MassWildlife and governed by statute and regulation, fishing, hunting, and trapping are prohibited; other public recreation access is permitted.

**WCR** (Wildlife Conservation Restriction) – DFG or MassWildlife owns development rights, but public access is not allowed. These lands buffer wildlife habitat by preventing unwanted development.



# BLACK BEAR

		OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	ANNUAL LIMIT
Black Bear	Zones 1-14	First Season	Sept. 5 – Sept. 23	See "Black Bear," below.	1
		Second Season	Nov. 6 – Nov. 25		
		Shotgun Season (restrictions apply*)	Nov. 27 – Dec. 9		

\*Hunters must wear 500 square inches of hunter orange on their head, chest and back. Rifles and handguns prohibited.



Photo © Bill Byrne

## BLACK BEAR

Permit required (see page 8). Limit one bear per year. Hunting only with rifle .23 caliber or larger; muzzleloader .44–.775 caliber, fired from the shoulder, using a single projectile; bows, draw weight 40 lbs. or greater; revolvers .357 Magnum or .40 caliber or larger; or shotgun, no larger than 10 gauge, including shotguns with a rifled bore, slugs or single ball only. Hunting implements are restricted by season, see table below. Revolvers permitted during first season only, shotguns permitted

during shotgun season only. Use of dogs for training or hunting is prohibited (see Hunting Dogs on page 22). Baiting of bears is prohibited. During the shotgun season hunters must wear 500 square inches of blaze orange on their head, chest, and back; rifles and handguns are prohibited; shotguns, muzzleloaders, and archery equipment allowed. Hunting hours close ½ hour after sunset except as noted in WMA Reg. #10 (page 23). Successful hunters must immediately fill out and detach bear tag from permit and attach tag to bear prior to moving it, and then must check/report their harvest **within 48 hours** by **EITHER** 1) reporting online and writing the harvest report confirmation number on tag attached to the bear (see page 27 for details), or 2) bringing the bear to an official check station. Bear can only be field dressed, must not be concealed (bear or part of bear must remain open to view during transport), and must remain intact or whole (do not skin, butcher, or take to a taxidermist for mounting) until bear has been checked/reported.

## HOW OLD IS THAT BEAR?

MassWildlife collects bear teeth to determine the age demographics of the harvest. Contribute to the scientific management of the MA Black Bear population! Follow the instructions below and you will receive a letter in June or July with the age of your harvested bear.

1. Remove either the left or right premolar (see photo below), the small tooth just behind the canine. Using a small sharp knife, or a sharp ¼-inch wood chisel, slide the blade down the side of the tooth and cut or separate the gum tissue where it sticks to the tooth. Using small needle-nose pliers or the pliers on your multi-tool, wiggle the tooth slightly until you can pull it out of the jawbone and the gum. The root is the most important part; go slow and be careful not to break this very small tooth.
2. Put the tooth in a small envelope or bag and mark it with your name, mailing address, customer ID number, and confirmation number (or seal number) of your bear. Enclose everything in a mailing envelope and send it to: Black Bear Aging, MassWildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd., Westborough, MA 01581.



## ALLOWABLE HUNTING IMPLEMENTS FOR BEAR SEASONS

HUNTING IMPLEMENT	FIRST SEASON	SECOND SEASON	SHOTGUN SEASON
Rifle*	✓	✓	
Revolver*	✓		
Muzzleloader*	✓	✓	✓
Archery	✓	✓	✓
Shotgun			✓

\* Except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during pheasant/quail season.

## ANIMALS TAGGED FOR RESEARCH

Some bear, deer, coyotes, and other animals may have ear tags or radio collars. It is legal to harvest them. If you find or take one of these animals, contact DFW's Field Headquarters (508) 389-6300 immediately. You will be asked for information that will help biologists determine the source and status of these animals AND you will be asked to return the equipment to MassWildlife. Thank you for your cooperation.



# UPLAND GAME BIRDS

		OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	SEASON LIMIT
<b>UPLAND GAME BIRDS*</b>					
Wild Turkey	Spring: Zones 1–13	April 24 – May 20			
	Fall: Zones 1–13	Oct. 23 – Nov. 4			
	Youth Hunt: Zones 1–13	April 22 (see box below)			
			See "Wild Turkey," below.		
Crow	Zones 1–14	Jan. 2 – April 10 July 1 – April 10, 2018	—	—	—
Pheasant	Zones 1–14	Oct. 14 – Nov. 25	2	4	6
	Youth Hunt	See page 47.			
Quail	Zones 11–14	Oct. 14 – Nov. 25	4	8	20
Ruffed Grouse	Zones 1–14	Oct. 14 – Nov. 25	3	6	15

Upland game bird hunting is closed during shotgun deer season.

## CROW

May be hunted on Fridays, Saturdays, and Mondays only during the open season. Electronic calls, rifles, and bait are permissible. Hunting hours close ½ hour after sunset except as noted in WMA Reg. #10 (see page 23). Crow hunting season may coincide with the Youth Deer hunt, special restrictions apply, see page 30.

## PHEASANT

Cocks (males) and hens (females) may be hunted on all WMAs statewide. Only cocks can be hunted eastward of the zone from the New Hampshire border south on I-95 to I-495, south on I-495 to I-95, north on I-95 to I-93/128, east on I-93/128 to Rt. 3, south

on Rt. 3 to Rt. 228, north on Rt. 228 to the Hull town line, including the town of Hull and also in Dukes and Nantucket counties. See WMA Reg. #9–11 (page 23).

## QUAIL

Zones 11–14 only (see page 24). See WMA Reg. #9–11 (page 23).

## RUFFED GROUSE

See WMA Reg. #9–11 (page 23).

## WILD TURKEY

Permit required. Official safety sticker must be adhered to firearm such that it is visible to the hunter when sighting down the barrel (typically placed on the tang). If new or replacement sticker is needed, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to any MassWildlife office. Spring hunting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon. Fall hunting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset except as noted in WMA Reg. #10 (page 23).

**Bag Limit:** Annual limit of 2 wild turkeys total, only one turkey may be harvested per day; **EITHER** (a) 2 bearded birds in spring season (1 per day) with NO fall bird allowed, OR (b) 1 bearded bird in spring season, and 1 bird of either sex in fall season. No hunter may take 2 birds in the fall season. Hunting only with shotguns no larger than 10 gauge or .775 caliber smoothbore muzzleloading shotguns using #4–#7 size

shot, and with archery equipment (see ARCHERY page 22). Use of electronic calls, dogs, bait, and driving turkeys is prohibited. Successful hunters must fill out tag attached to permit and immediately (prior to moving) attach it to turkey, and must check/report their harvest **within 48 hours** by **EITHER** 1) reporting online and writing the assigned confirmation number on tag attached to turkey (see page 27 for details), or 2) bringing the turkey to an official check station.

## SPECIAL UPLAND BIRD HUNTING OPTION

Licensed hunters may submit an application to MassWildlife District offices for a free 1 day permit that allows the private purchase, liberation, and hunting of ring-necked pheasants and/or bobwhite quail on selected WMAs (see below) from January 1 – March 31. If purchasing birds from out of state, a separate importation permit is required. Permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis; only one party may schedule a hunt on each specific WMA per day. There is no minimum or maximum stocking limit, or daily/season bag limit. For a complete list of procedures and locations available for this permit, contact any MassWildlife District office (see page 5). Locations include: Crane WMA and Erwin Wilder WMA (SE District), Bolton Flats WMA and Winnimisset WMA (Central District), Martin Burns WMA (NE District), Herm Covey WMA (CT Valley District), Housatonic Valley WMA (Western District).

## YOUNG ADULT TURKEY HUNT REQUIREMENTS

To participate, Hunter Ed. graduates age 12 to 17 must complete the Youth Turkey Hunt Program (details on page 47). All past participants **MUST** complete and mail in the past participant application which can be found at [mass.gov/dfw/pastparticipantapp](http://mass.gov/dfw/pastparticipantapp).



## IDENTIFYING HEN (FEMALE) AND TOM (MALE) WILD TURKEYS DURING THE SPRING HUNTING SEASON

A small proportion of female turkeys may have a beard and therefore can be legally harvested. However, their loss reduces the reproductive potential of the turkey population. To avoid misidentification, use the following features below to accurately determine the turkey's sex.

Photos © Bill Byrne



TOM	FEATURE	HEN
Red, blue, or white colors with snood (fleshy mass over the beak)	<b>Head</b>	Blue-gray, no snood
Dark, brown-black	<b>Body</b>	Light, rusty brown
Long bristle/filament-like beard	<b>Beard</b>	Usually no beard
Present	<b>Spurs</b>	Usually absent
Gobble, drum	<b>Calls</b>	Yelps, clucks, cuts
Strut with tail fanned and wings dropped	<b>Strut</b>	Do not strut or fan tail
Larger than hen	<b>Size</b>	1/2 to 2/3 size of tom

## TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

- Don't stalk birds; sit or stand and call the turkeys to you.
- Don't wear red, white, blue or black anywhere on your body where the colors might be exposed during your hunt.
- Don't hide in a place where your view is obstructed.
- Be completely sure of your target and what is beyond it before you shoot.
- Positively identify male vs. female turkeys. Although bearded hens are legal to hunt during the spring season, their loss reduces the reproductive potential of wild turkeys in your area.
- If another hunter approaches your setup, call out in a loud, clear voice. Make sure your presence is acknowledged before you move. Never wave to alert another hunter of your presence.
- Never assume that you are alone in the woods - even if you are the only one on the land with permission to hunt.
- Use hen calls. A gobble call might attract other hunters.
- To protect yourself from accidentally being struck by shotgun pellets, always sit with your back against a tree trunk, big log or a boulder that is wider than your body.
- Avoid unnecessary movement. This alerts turkeys and could attract hunters.
- Don't carry harvested birds or decoys in the open. Cover birds with fluorescent orange or completely conceal from view in a game bag.



Photo © Troy Gipps





# MIGRATORY GAME BIRD REGULATIONS



Photo © Bill Byrne

**Due to a new federal regulatory cycle, migratory game bird hunting seasons and bag limits will be set by April 30. Seasons and bag limits are not included in this guide, but will be posted on the MassWildlife website by mid-May. Printed copies of the Migratory Game Bird Regulations, including seasons, bag limits will be available in August.**

No one may take migratory game birds except during days and hours open to hunting. No one shall take more than one daily bag limit per day nor possess more than one daily bag limit in the field or while returning to vehicle, hunting camp, home, etc.

**BAITING** No person shall take migratory game birds by baiting (placing corn or any other food to constitute a lure or enticement) or hunting over a baited area. An area is considered baited for 10 days after removal of the bait. It is not necessary for the hunter to know that the area is baited to be in violation of this section.

**BOW & ARROW** Lawful for hunting migratory game birds. Use of crossbows allowed by those duly permitted.

**DRESSING** The head and one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to each migratory game bird while it is transported to the hunter's home or preservation facility.

**DRIVING** A person shall not hunt migratory game birds from or in connection with a motor driven land conveyance, aircraft, or any kind of motor or sail boat used in concentrating or driving birds either for himself or for others.

**ELECTRONIC CALLS** No person shall take migratory game birds using pre-recorded calls or sounds or any electronic imitations of calls.

**FALCONRY** All permitted ducks and coot may be taken by falconry October 8 - February 8. No geese. Falconry closed Sundays.

**HUNTING HOURS** 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset (except on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail seasons when hunting hours begin at sunrise).

**IMPORTATION** No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country except Canada unless such birds are dressed, drawn, and the head and feet removed. One fully-feathered wing must remain on each bird transported between port of entry and the hunter's home or preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another. For further information on migratory game birds killed in another country, consult Title 50 CFR 20.61-20.66.

**LIVE DECOYS** No person shall hunt migratory game birds with the aid of live decoys or domesticated fowl of any kind. Such

fowl must be removed for 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and be confined in an enclosure which reduces the audibility of their calls and conceals them from the sight of migratory waterfowl.

**NON-TOXIC SHOT** Is required for all waterfowl and coot hunting - no lead shot in possession. Waterfowl hunters must use non-toxic shot up to and including BBB shot while hunting waterfowl.

**PROHIBITED DEVICES** No one shall hunt migratory birds using a sinkbox, trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, air gun, swivel gun, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.

**PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES** Anyone aboard a canoe or kayak from Sept. 15- May 15 must wear a life jacket (PFD).

**SHIPMENT** Any package containing migratory game birds must be marked on the outside with the name and address of the sender and recipient and number of birds, by species, contained inside.

**SHOTGUN** Migratory game birds may be hunted with shotguns no larger than 10 gauge, fired from the shoulder. Shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells may not be used unless plugged with a one-piece filler which limits the gun's total capacity to 3 shells and which cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.

**SHOTGUN DEER SEASONS** During the shotgun seasons for deer (including Youth Deer Hunt on Sep. 30, 2017), dogs can be used for waterfowl, snipe, rail, and falconry hunting only on coastal waters and salt marshes. All hunters must wear 500 square inches of blaze orange (cap and vest) while hunting or in transit to their blind or boat during these periods. The orange may be removed once a hunter is in a blind or boat.

**STAMPS** Stamps are required for hunting any waterfowl: ducks (including sea ducks), geese, or brant. Stamps are not required for hunting woodcock, snipe, rails, or coots. (See page 9).

**TAGGING** Any migratory game birds not in the custody of the hunter must be tagged with the hunter's signature, address, total number of birds by species, and dates such birds were killed. No person shall receive or have in custody another's migratory game birds unless such birds are properly tagged.



**VEHICLES/BOATS** No person shall hunt migratory game birds from or with the aid of a motor vehicle or other motor driven land conveyance or aircraft except that paraplegics may take game birds from a stationary motor vehicle or other land conveyance. Further, no person may hunt from or by means of any motor boat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or sails furled and all progress therefrom has ceased. However, a hunter may pick up or retrieve dead or crippled birds from a craft under power and may shoot injured birds from powered craft in coastal waters seaward of the first upstream bridge.

**WANTON WASTE** Hunters are required to make a reasonable effort to retrieve all migratory birds killed or crippled. Cripples should be killed immediately, and, along with all other birds killed, must be retained by the hunter as part of the daily bag.

**YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT** Youths aged 12–15 may hunt ducks, coots, mergansers, and geese. All youths must be ac-

companied by a licensed adult hunter with a valid Massachusetts waterfowl stamp. One firearm only. Adult may not hunt, and may carry firearm only when unloaded and cased. No license or stamp needed for youths aged 12–14. License and Massachusetts waterfowl stamp needed for youths age 15. No federal stamp required. All other hunting regulations and bag limits apply.

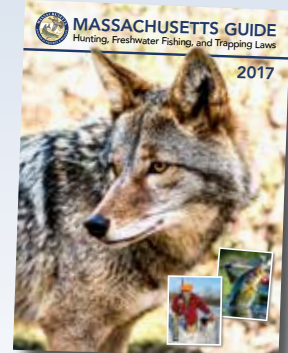
#### **HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP):**

Each calendar year, all woodcock, rail, coot, snipe, and waterfowl hunters must register with HIP by completing a survey when they purchase their license and/or Massachusetts waterfowl stamp through any license vendor or online. Survey completion will be noted on your license providing proof you have registered with HIP. There is no fee.

**SEASON DATES/BAG LIMITS** Migratory Game Bird season dates, bag limits, and hunting zone information are released in the spring. Visit [mass.gov/dfw/migratory-bird-hunting](http://mass.gov/dfw/migratory-bird-hunting) for more information.

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## **CONSUMPTION ADVISORY**

A Waterfowl Consumption Advisory is in effect for the Housatonic River due to PCBs. For more information call the MA Department of Public Health at (617) 624-5757 or visit [mass.gov/dph](http://mass.gov/dph).



Photo © Bill Byrne

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## DEER HUNTING

		OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	SEASON LIMIT
Deer	Youth Deer Hunt	Sept. 30	See "Deer," below and pages 38–39.		1 antlered deer OR 1 antlerless deer in Zone specified in permit during season
	Paraplegic Hunt	Nov. 2 – Nov. 4			
	Archery	Oct. 16 – Nov. 25			
	Shotgun	Nov. 27 – Dec. 9	See "Deer," below and pages 38–39.		2 antlered deer + antlerless deer by permit
	Primitive Firearms	Dec. 11 – Dec. 30			

Hunting hours begin ½ hour before sunrise and close ½ hour after sunset except as noted in WMA Reg. #10 (page 23).

**ANTLERED DEER:** Any deer with at least 1 antler 3 inches long measured on a straight line from the center of the front base of the antler burr to the tip.

**ANTLERLESS DEER:** Any deer without antlers or both antlers less than 3 inches long measured on a straight line from the center of the front base of the antler burr to the tip.

**ANTLERLESS DEER PERMIT:** A permit is required to take antlerless deer during any deer season. To apply for an antlerless deer permit, hunters must apply online or at a license vendor by **July 16**. Hunters may only apply for 1 permit in a specific Wildlife Management Zone (see WMZ map, page 24). The application is submitted through the *MassFishHunt* system by any license vendor, or online. To obtain a permit, applicants must return to the *MassFishHunt* system during the Instant Award period (Aug. 1 – Dec. 31) and try to draw an antlerless deer permit in the zone to which they applied. Notification

of whether the applicant was successful or not will be instant. Selection is random and the odds of drawing a permit remain the same throughout the Instant Award period. Instant Award permit issuance is NOT first-come-first-served. The odds of drawing a permit depend on the number of antlerless deer permits issued for a given zone and the number of hunters that applied for that zone. Successful applicants will be assessed a \$5.00 fee and may print the permit immediately or at a later date. Any permits for undersubscribed zones will go on sale in October with details announced in September.



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**NOTE:** Antlerless deer permits are valid during any deer season in the specified zone only (see Zone map, page 24) and must be in the hunter's possession while deer hunting. Each antlerless deer permit is valid for one antlerless deer. A hunter may possess antlerless deer permits for more than one zone (e.g., drawing a Zone 5 with Instant Award and purchasing an additional antlerless deer permit for an undersubscribed zone, such as Zone 14). Antlerless deer permits are nontransferable.

**TAGGING AND CHECKING REQUIREMENTS:** Upon killing a deer hunters must immediately fill out and detach paper tag from permit/license and attach tag to deer prior to moving it, and then must check/report their harvest **within 48 hours** by **EITHER** 1) reporting online and writing the harvest confirmation number on the tag attached to the deer (see page 27 for details), or 2) checking the deer at an official check station. **EXCEPTION:** All deer harvested during the 2-week shotgun season must be brought to an official check station. Until checked/reported, the deer or part of deer must remain open to view during transport AND must remain intact or whole (deer may be field-dressed, but not butchered, skinned, or taken to a taxidermist for mounting).

**SHOTGUN DEER SEASON:** During shotgun deer season hunters may use shotguns no larger than 10 gauge, bows and arrows, or muzzleloaders not smaller than .44 caliber, or larger than .775 caliber. Hunters may use modern muzzleloaders, hinge action muzzleloaders, muzzleloaders with telescopic sights, and sabot rounds. Rifled barrel shotguns are legal during shotgun deer season.

The possession of rifles, handguns, or dogs in any woodland or field, or use of same on any game, is **prohibited** during the shotgun deer season (youth deer hunt included) except that the use of dogs is lawful for hunting waterfowl on coastal waters.

**BLAZE ORANGE:** All hunters, including bowhunters, must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of "blaze orange" on their head, chest, and back during shotgun and muzzleloader seasons. Cap and vest will suffice.

## SPECIAL HUNTS

- Quabbin and Blue Hills Controlled Deer Hunts, see page 39
- Paralegic Sportsmen's Deer Hunt, Nov. 2 – Nov. 4, 2017, see page 38
- Youth Pheasant Hunt, see page 47
- Youth Turkey Hunt, see page 47
- Youth Deer Hunt Date, see page 38
- Youth Waterfowl Hunting Dates, see Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Dates (available in Spring of 2017)
- Special Upland Game Bird Hunt, see page 32

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**YOUTH DEER HUNT:** The Youth Deer Hunt date is Sept. 30, 2017. Youth aged 12–17 may participate; permit required, see Minors on page 12 for licensing requirements. Youth Deer Hunt Permits are free and available only at MassWildlife offices and sporting license vendors; **permits not available online.**

Permits are available beginning **August 1.** The Youth Deer Hunt Permit with its accompanying tag is valid only for the day of the Youth Deer Hunt and cannot be used during any other deer hunting seasons. Shotgun, muzzle-loader, or bow and arrow may be used. When a minor is accompanied by an adult, only one hunting implement between them is permitted. Accompanying adults may not use any hunting implements. Bag Limit: One antlered deer statewide OR one antlerless deer in the Wildlife Management Zone (s) specified on the Permit. All youth hunters and any accompanying adults must wear at least 500 square inches of blaze orange on the chest, back, and head. All harvest reporting requirements apply.

**PARAPLEGIC SPORTSMEN'S HUNT:**

There is a special deer hunt for paraplegic sportsmen Nov. 2–4, 2017. Contact MassWildlife Field Headquarters (508) 389-6300 or visit [mass.gov/masswildlife](http://mass.gov/masswildlife) for more information.

**ARCHERY DEER SEASON:** Archery Stamp required. Archers shall not possess firearms on their person or use dogs. Arrows must be well-sharpened steel broadhead blades no less than 7/8 inches in width. Expanding broadheads and mechanical releases are legal. All bows, except permitted crossbows, used for hunting deer (recurve, long, and compound) must have a draw weight of at least 40 lbs. at 28 inches or at peak draw. Blaze orange is not required except as noted in WMA Reg. #11 (page 23). See page 22 for more archery information.

**PRIMITIVE FIREARMS DEER SEASON:**

Primitive Firearms Stamp required. Hunters may use only shoulder-fired muzzleloaders .44 caliber to .775 caliber; barrel length 18 inches or more with only one barrel operational. Inline ignition systems are permitted providing rifle loads from the muzzle. Single projectile only (no buckshot). Sabot rounds, 209 primers, break/hinge-action muzzleloaders, and scopes are legal. Powder limited to black powder or black powder substitutes. A muzzleloader is considered unloaded when cap or pan powder is removed. Archers may hunt during the muzzleloader firearms season but must purchase a Primitive Firearms Stamp. All deer hunters must wear at

least 500 square inches of hunter orange on head, back, and chest during the primitive firearms season.

**DAILY BAG:** The daily bag limit is determined by the number of valid tags or permits a hunter possesses and whether or not the hunter has checked/reported any deer. No hunter may have more than 2 unreported deer in possession at any time, with the exception of Zones 13 and 14, where no hunter may have more than 4 unreported deer in possession at any time. All deer must be checked/reported within 48 hours of being killed.

**SEASON LIMIT:** Two antlered deer, and as many antlerless deer as the hunter has valid permits. **Note:** Hunters may purchase additional antlerless deer permits for available zones.

**DRIVING DEER** while hunting is lawful.

**BAITING OF DEER** is prohibited during any deer season and any bait made available to deer must be removed 10 days prior to the opening of the first day of archery deer season. Bait includes any natural or artificial substance which may be ingested that is used to entice deer.

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**IMPORTATION OF DEER PARTS** from states or provinces where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected (including NY, PA, VA, WV, and MD) is illegal. It is legal to import deboned meat, cleaned skull caps, hides without the head, or a fixed taxidermy mount. No live deer, of any species, may be brought into Massachusetts for any purpose.

**CONTROLLED DEER HUNT:** Visit the Department of Conservation and Recreation's website at [mass.gov/dcr](http://mass.gov/dcr) for application details on their controlled hunts (Quabbin and Blue Hills Reservation: typically updated by early August).

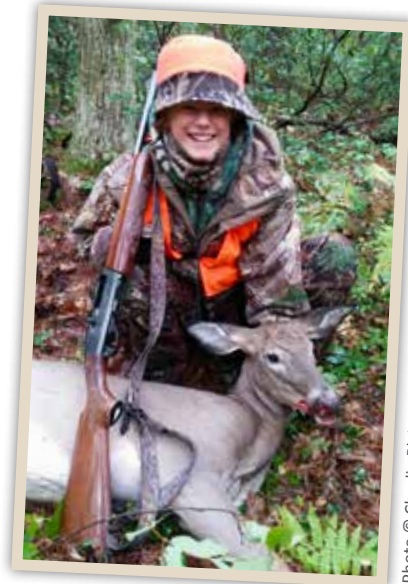


Photo © Charlie Blair

Charley Blair harvested this doe in the Central Wildlife District—her first deer—during the 2015 Youth Deer Hunt Day.

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# RABBITS AND SQUIRREL HUNTING

		OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	SEASON LIMIT
<b>Cottontail Rabbit</b>	Zones 1-12	Jan. 2 – Feb. 28 Oct. 14 – Feb. 28, 2018	5	10	—
	Zones 13 and 14	Jan. 2 – Feb. 28 Nov. 15 – Feb. 28, 2018	5	10	—
<b>Snowshoe Hare</b>	Zones 1–4	Jan. 2 – Feb. 28 Oct. 14 – Feb. 28, 2018	2	4	—
	Zones 5–12	Jan. 2 – Feb. 4 Oct. 14 – Feb. 5, 2018	2	4	—
	Zones 13 and 14	Jan. 2 – Feb. 4 Nov. 15 – Feb. 5, 2018	2	4	—
<b>Jackrabbit</b>	Zone 14	Nov. 15 – Dec. 30	1	2	—
<b>Gray Squirrel</b>	Zones 1–9	Sept. 11 – Jan. 2, 2018	5	10	—
	Zones 10–14	Oct. 14 – Jan. 2, 2018	5	10	—

Cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, jackrabbit, and gray squirrel hunting are closed during shotgun deer season.

## RABBIT, HARE, AND JACKRABBIT

Hunting hours ½ hour before sunrise to midnight except on certain WMAs (see WMA Regulation #10 page 23).

## GRAY SQUIRREL

Rifles and handguns of any caliber permitted in Zones 1–9, prohibited in Zones 10–14 (see page 24). No trapping or netting. Shotgun or bow and arrow only during the pheasant and quail seasons on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail (see WMA Regulation #9, page 23). Hunting hours

½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset except on Wildlife Management Areas where pheasant or quail are stocked during the open season on pheasant and quail, when hunting hours are from sunrise to sunset (see WMA Regulation #9–11, page 23). Gray squirrel hunting season may coincide with the Youth Deer hunt, when special restrictions apply, see page 26.

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# FURBEARER HUNTING

		OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	SEASON LIMIT
<b>Bobcat</b>	Zones 1–8	Jan. 2 – Mar. 8 Dec. 20 – Mar. 8, 2018	—	—	—
<b>Coyote</b>	Zones 1–14	Jan. 2 – Mar. 8 Oct. 14 – Mar. 8, 2018	—	—	—
<b>Fox (red or gray)</b>	Zones 1–14	Jan. 2 – Feb. 28 Nov. 1 – Feb 28, 2018	—	—	—
<b>Raccoon</b>	Zones 1–14	Jan. 2 – Jan. 31 Oct. 2 – Jan. 31, 2018	3	* see Raccoon below	—
<b>Opossum</b>	Zones 1–14	Jan. 2 – Jan. 31 Oct. 2 – Jan. 31, 2018	—	—	—

All furbearer hunting seasons are closed during the shotgun deer season except for coyotes.

## BOBCAT

Hunting hours ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. Hunting is limited to Wildlife Management Zones 1–8. It is illegal to use dogs for bobcat hunting. All bobcats taken or salvaged must be checked within 4 working days of the end of the season (see page 44) at an official check station. **Bobcats cannot be reported online.**

## COYOTE & FOX

Hunting hours begin ½ hour before sunrise and end at midnight, except 1) on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant and quail season when hunting hours begin at sunrise and end at sunset and, 2) when hunting coyote during the shotgun deer season (see below). Coyote and fox may be hunted with shotguns, muzzleloaders, and archery, as well as rifles and handguns with special nighttime restrictions (see page 29). Coyotes may be hunted with shotguns using numbered or lettered birdshot ( $\leq 0.230$  inch pellet diameter; up to FF), except during the shotgun deer season (see below). Fox may be hunted with numbered birdshot only ( $\leq 0.160$  inch pellet diameter).

It is legal to hunt coyote and fox using bait, decoys, electronic or manual calls, and dogs. Artificial lights are prohibited. Coyote and fox pelts/carasses must be checked/ reported **within 4 working days of the end of the season** by either 1) checking them at an official check station (see page 44), or 2) reporting them online and writing the harvest confirmation number on a tag of your own making, then attaching the tag to the carcass or pelt (see page 44 for details). Confirmation numbers must remain attached to all pelts/carasses, with the specific confirmation number issued for each particular pelt or carcass, until the carcass is prepared for mounting by a taxidermist, or the pelt is sold or tanned.

**During the shotgun deer season** it is legal to hunt coyotes, but not fox; however the following additional regulations apply:

- Hunting hours begin ½ hour before sunrise and end ½ hour after sunset.
- Use of manual or electronic calls and dogs are prohibited.

- Rifles and handguns are prohibited.
- Shotguns and muzzleloaders loaded with slugs, single balls, or buckshot are permitted.
- All hunters must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of hunter orange on their head, chest, and back.

## RACCOON

Bag limit of 3 raccoons from sunset of 1 day to sunset of the following day by 1 person; limit of 6\* and salvage by licensed individuals by 2 or more persons hunting in the same group.

Night hunting on WMAs (except Delaney and Flint Pond WMAs) is permitted from sunset to sunrise except during the pheasant and quail season on areas stocked with pheasant or quail, when raccoon may be hunted only from 9pm to 3am. Raccoon hunting season may coincide with the Youth Deer hunt, when special restrictions apply, see page 26.

## OPOSSUM

No bag limit on opossum. Night hunting on WMAs (except Delaney and Flint Pond WMAs) is permitted from sunset to sunrise except during the pheasant and quail season on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail, when opossum may be hunted only from 9pm to 3am. Opossum hunting season may coincide with the Youth Deer Hunt, when special restrictions apply, see page 26.

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# FURBEARER TRAPPING

## OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)

<b>Bobcat<sup>1,2</sup>, Coyote<sup>1</sup>, Fox<sup>1</sup>, Weasel</b>	Nov. 1 – Nov. 30
<b>Fisher<sup>1</sup></b>	Nov. 1 – Nov. 22
<b>Mink<sup>1</sup>, River Otter<sup>1</sup></b>	Nov. 1 – Dec. 15
<b>Beaver<sup>1</sup></b>	Jan. 1 – April 15 Nov. 1 – April 15, 2018
<b>Muskrat, Opossum, Raccoon, Skunk</b>	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28 Nov. 1 – Feb. 28, 2018

1 – Pelt sealing required; see page 44.

2 – Bobcats may only be trapped in zones 1-8

## BOBCAT

Bobcat may only be taken by trapping or salvaged in Wildlife Management Zones 1–8. All bobcats taken or salvaged must be checked within 4 working days of the end of the season at an official check station.

**Bobcats cannot be reported online.**

## OTTER

All otters taken or salvaged must be checked within 4 working days of the end of the season at an official check station.

**Otters cannot be reported online.**

## MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION

Trapper Education is mandatory for first-time trappers and Problem Animal Control (PAC) agents in order to apply for a trap registration certificate. A trap registration certificate is required to trap on land owned by others and traps in possession and use must have the assigned registration number embedded into the trap and must have a metal tag attached bearing trapper's name, town, and registration number (see page 44).

Government issued Trapper Education certificates from any U.S. state are accepted to apply. Included in the Massachusetts Trapper Education course is the mandatory training required to use Bailey or Hancock traps. Both a Trapper Education Certificate and a Bailey-Hancock Certificate are issued to students who successfully complete this course.

## LAWFUL TRAP TYPES

Only cage or box type traps may be used for the taking of fur-bearing mammals. Common rat traps may only be used for the taking of weasels. Bailey and Hancock traps may only be used for the taking of beaver and only by trappers who have been issued the Bailey-Hancock certificate of completion. The Bailey-Hancock certificate must be in possession when using such traps. There is a detailed procedure for obtaining a special permit to use bodygrip traps (e.g., Conibear™ traps) to address certain types of wildlife damage. Contact your local MassWildlife District office for details.

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**PROHIBITED TRAPS:** Steel-jaw foothold traps, padded jaw traps, body-gripping (Conibear) traps (see below), snares, deadfalls, and any traps other than those specified above are prohibited. Such traps may not be set, tended, used, or possessed in the field.

**STAKING** is not a recognized practice and conveys no special trapping privileges.

**STOLEN TRAPS:** A trapper must report the loss or theft of a trap in writing to the Office of Law Enforcement within 48 hours of the loss or theft, or remain responsible for its use. The report should include the number and type of traps, the date, time, place and circumstances of the loss or theft. Such reports must be signed under the pains and penalties of perjury. Stolen traps should be reported to:

**Coastal Law Enforcement:**  
Mass. Environmental Police  
Office of Law Enforcement  
Attn: Trap Loss  
Bldg. #45, 349 Lincoln St.  
Hingham, MA 02043

**Inland Law Enforcement:**  
Mass. Environmental Police  
Office of Law Enforcement  
Attn: Trap Loss  
183 Milk Street  
Westborough, MA 01581

## SALE OF PELTS

**EXPORTING RAW FURS:** When shipping raw fur pelts by any carrier, the contents of the package and the shipper's hunting or trapping license number must be listed on the outside of the package.

The destruction or removal of any identifying tag or label that is attached to a container in which skins are shipped is unlawful.

All river otter and bobcat require CITES tags to be lawfully exported for sale. Go to a MassWildlife District office, Sunderland Fish Hatchery, or Bitzer Fish Hatchery for these tags.

**RAW PELTS** of coyote, wild fox, wild mink, gray wolf, bobcat, lynx, fisher, marten, river otter, or beaver may not be sold in Massachusetts unless tagged by the state or province of origin.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT AND REPORTING VIOLATIONS

If you are aware of illegal trapping activities, or suspect a violation of any wildlife law, Environmental Police Officers can be reached at (800) 632-8075 (toll free) or (617) 727-6398.

**VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES:** Trapping licenses can be revoked for one year in addition to other penalties and fines as well as restitutions of up to \$1000 and/or six months in jail. Traps and other equipment can be seized and forfeited to the Commonwealth. In addition, Problem Animal Control Licenses and/or Furbuyer licenses can be revoked, plus fines and penalties assessed, and additionally, fur products can be seized and forfeited to the Commonwealth.

## TRAP REGISTRATION

All traps used on the land of another must have a valid trap registration number embedded or cut into the trap. The assigned number, including letter and figures, must be at least 1/8 inches high and legible at all times. The trap must also have attached a metal tag bearing the owner's name, town and registration number. The registration number is yours for life, but **must be renewed every two years**. To trap on another's land, a trapper must maintain a current certification of that registration number. Registration numbers are available from the MassWildlife Boston office. The initial fee for trap registration is \$5.00. Renewal fee is \$5.00. Make check payable to Comm. of MA—DFW.

## PELT CHECKING/REPORTING

Coyote, fox, fisher, beaver, bobcat, river otter, and mink must be checked within 4 working days of the end of their respective seasons. Furbearers/pelts must be checked at an official check station or may be checked online (except bobcat and otter). For detailed information on Online Game Check, visit the Game Check Station page on [mass.gov/dfw/checkstation](http://mass.gov/dfw/checkstation); visit the MassFishHunt System online at [mass.gov/massfishhunt](http://mass.gov/massfishhunt) to report your harvest online. Once you are issued a harvest confirmation number, write it on a tag of your own making and attach it to the pelt/carcass. Confirmation numbers must remain attached to all pelts/carcasses for which they were specifically issued until the pelt/carcass is prepared for mounting by a taxidermist or the pelt is sold or tanned. **Bobcat and river otter cannot be reported online. Take all bobcat and river otter to an official check station within 4 working days of the end of the season. You will be issued a plastic CITES seal for bobcat and river otter.**



Photo © Bill Byrne

## FURBEARER CHECK STATIONS

Check stations are open Monday–Friday (excluding holidays). Call check stations prior to bringing pelts in for sealing. Most deer check stations also check coyotes; visit our website at [mass.gov/dfw/checkstation](http://mass.gov/dfw/checkstation) or call MassWildlife Field Headquarters for further information.

- **Western District:**  
Dalton (413) 684-1646
- **Connecticut Valley District:**  
Belchertown (413) 323-7632
- **Central District:**  
West Boylston (508) 835-3607
- **Northeast District:**  
Ayer (978) 772-2145
- **Southeast District:**  
Buzzards Bay (508) 759-3406
- **Sunderland Hatchery:**  
Sunderland (413) 665-4680
- **Bitzer Fish Hatchery:**  
Montague (413) 367-2477
- **Field Headquarters:**  
Westborough (508) 389-6300



# TRAPPING PROHIBITIONS

## TRAPPING PROHIBITIONS—IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

1. Trap before 6:00am on opening day of any trapping season.
2. Possess or have under control a trap on land of another in any place where fur-bearing mammals might be found between April 16 of any year and 6:00 on the following November 1.
3. Possess the green pelt of any fur-bearing mammal or any part of such pelt except during the open season for such mammal and for ten days thereafter.
4. Possess or have under his control an unregistered trap on land of another.
5. Possess or have under control the registered trap of another, unless he has entered into a trapping partnership through the Boston Office as provided in M.G.L. c131 § 80 and 321 CMR 3.02(5)(e)14.
6. Trap on posted land of another without the written permission of the owner or tenant of such land.
7. Trap in a public way, cart road, path or other way commonly used as a passageway for human beings or domestic animals.
8. Tear open, disturb, or destroy a muskrat lodge, beaver lodge or beaver dam, except as provided in 321 CMR 2.08.
9. Use poison or trap with a trap designed to take more than one mammal at a time.
10. Trap on land with a Bailey or Hancock beaver trap or other suitcase type cage trap of similar design, except when set upon a beaver dam or beaver lodge, snag, stump, rock, or other above-water protrusion entirely or substantially surrounded by water, or, when the pan of such trap is not completely submerged.
11. Trap with a Bailey or Hancock beaver trap or other suitcase type cage trap of similar design without having completed a training session and having been issued a certificate of completion as provided for in 321 CMR 3.02(5)(c)2., or to fail to carry such certificate on one's person when using such traps.
12. Fail to visit all traps staked out, set, used, tended, placed, or maintained, and remove all animals trapped at least once in each calendar day between the hours of 4:00am and 10:00pm.
13. Destroy, mutilate, spring, or remove the trap of another.
14. Take any fur-bearing mammal from the trap of another unless he has on his person a specific written authorization to do so, signed by the owner of such trap. The owner of traps may give such authorization to any person licensed to trap under M.G.L. c. 131 for a period not to exceed one week from the day the traps were last tended, provided that notice of the giving of such authorization including the name and trapping license number of the person so authorized shall be given to the regional Environmental Police Officer and to the Director within 24 hours of the giving of such authorization.
15. Set, use, place, locate, tend, or maintain a trap not bearing on a metal tag the name, town of residence, and trap registration number of the person or persons using the same in a manner as to be legible at all times. Said registration number shall be permanently embedded in or marked on the traps with letters and figures not less than 1/8 inches high in such a manner as to be legible at all times.
16. Trap fur-bearing mammals with any trap other than a cage or box type trap, or a common rat trap for weasels.
17. Possess any road-killed furbearers during the closed season, or possess road-killed furbearers during the open season without a valid hunting or trapping license as appropriate to that species and season.

18. Alter, tamper with, or reapply a furbearer tag or seal, or possess any altered or resealed tag, or possess any pelt bearing an altered or resealed tag or seal.

## INCIDENTAL CATCH — EMERGENCY PERMIT

Catch of any species other than beaver or muskrat while trapping with a 10 day emergency permit must be turned over to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

## PROBLEM ANIMAL CONTROL AGENTS

Problem Animal Control (PAC) agents are private individuals licensed by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to assist the public in situations involving sick animals or animals causing property damage. If you are experiencing wildlife damage and wish to contract with a PAC agent, a listing can be found on MassWildlife website [mass.gov/masswildlife](http://mass.gov/masswildlife). Individuals interested in becoming a PAC agent can obtain information on the permitting process from this same website, or call MassWildlife Field Headquarters at (508) 389-6300.



Photo © Bill Byrne

## RABIES

Rabies in wild mammals has been confirmed in all counties in Massachusetts except Dukes and Nantucket. Wear rubber gloves when skinning furbearers. If you believe you have been exposed to a rabid animal, scrub the area thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical advice immediately. If possible, isolate and preserve the dead animal by refrigeration as soon as possible. Contact your local Board of Health.



## TREESTAND SAFETY TIPS

Treestands are popular with both hunters and wildlife photographers. Unfortunately, every year reports of people falling from tree stands are regularly reported—these falls often result in serious injuries and potential death. Most accidents occur when the user is climbing up to or descending from the treestand. Take a free online safety course offered in partnership with HunterCourse.com at [www.huntercourse.com/treestandssafety](http://www.huntercourse.com/treestandssafety). With a little common sense and an awareness of potential hazards, you can have a safe and enjoyable experience.

### Safe Treestand Users ALWAYS:

- Wear & Properly Use a Certified Full-Body Fall Arrest Harness System & Certified Treestands
- Read, Understand & Follow Equipment Manufacturer's Instructions
- Practice Using Their FBFAH System With Another Responsible Person
- Use Haul Lines to Raise & Lower an Unloaded Gun, Backpack, Bow, & Other Gear
- Select a Safe Tree To Set Up
- Use Certified Equipment & Replace Damaged or Expired Harnesses & Stands
- Are Safe & Never Hurry, Keeping Proper Contact With the Tree or Treestand When Moving
- Have a Plan For Recovery Or Escape If Suspended in the Tree
- Let Others Know Their Exact Hunting Location, Who is With Them & Time of Return
- Know Their Limits & Carry Emergency Signaling Devices



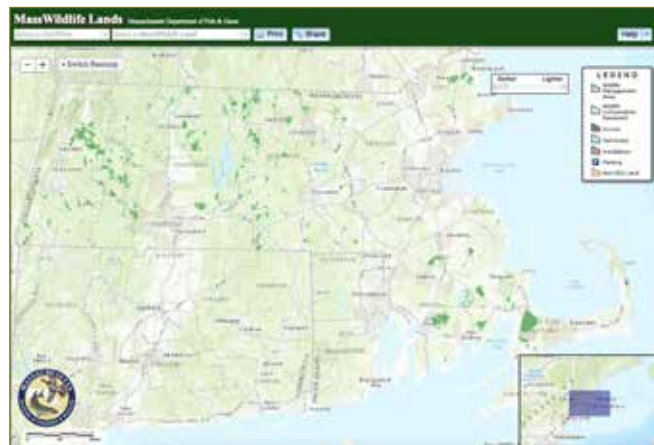
Photo © Bill Byrne

## LOOKING FOR PLACES TO HUNT, FISH, OR TRAP?

Wildlife lands, open to hunting, fishing, and trapping, can be viewed using the MassWildlife Lands Viewer, [mass.gov/dfw/wildlife-lands](http://mass.gov/dfw/wildlife-lands). This new tool shows land owned jointly by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) throughout the Commonwealth. Maps can be customized and printed using the Viewer. Users can search for land by town or by property name.

These lands are protected primarily to provide habitat for wildlife and to give people a place to relax and explore the great outdoors. For the most part, wildlife lands are open to hunting, fishing, trapping, birdwatching, and other wildlife related recreation. Users will find unmarked paths or woods roads with simple, unpaved parking lots. Many of these properties are actively managed through mowing, cutting, prescribed burns, or other activities that benefit wildlife.

Regulations govern the activities allowed on these lands and focus on passive recreation (see page 23). Motorized vehicles, for instance, are not permitted on state wildlife lands. Note that these maps are provided for recreational use and show approximate rather than legal descriptions of property boundaries.



# WANT TO DEVELOP YOUR OUTDOOR SKILLS? MASSWILDLIFE HAS A PROGRAM FOR YOU!

## LEARN TO HUNT PROGRAMS

Hunters with little or no experience can learn skills and techniques used to hunt different game animals. Courses are geared toward recent Basic Hunter Education graduates and include classroom learning and outdoor skills exercises. Taught by volunteers, the courses utilize the experience and knowledge of seasoned sportsmen and -women. Courses range from one-day condensed classes to three-day, in-depth courses. To learn more, to be notified about upcoming courses, or to volunteer as an instructor, visit [mass.gov/dfw/learn-to-hunt](http://mass.gov/dfw/learn-to-hunt).

## EXPLORE ARCHERY AND BOWHUNTING

These programs are designed to help instructors, program leaders, and educators teach outdoor skills to students of any age.

**EXPLORE ARCHERY** is an international style target shooting program that was created to promote the lifelong interest and participation in the sport of archery to participants of all ages.

**EXPLORE BOWHUNTING** is an educational program designed to teach students ages 11 and up the basic skills of bowhunting through 23 innovative lesson plans. Through these hands-on experiences students gain confidence interacting with the natural environment and strengthen their appreciation for wildlife and the woods.

For more information about these programs, call (508) 389-6305.

## ANGLER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Angler Education Program introduces people of all ages to fishing, educates them about the state's aquatic wildlife and habitats through fishing, and promotes Massachusetts' abundant waterways and freshwater fishing opportunities. Program elements include one-day family fishing festivals and short fishing clinics offered by volunteers and MassWildlife staff across the state. A Fishing Gear Loaner Program is available for groups and organizations that already have an event organized, but need equipment. Occasional specialty classes

such as fly tying or ice fishing are also scheduled. For more information call 508-389-6309.

## BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN

Designed primarily for adult women, BOW is an opportunity to learn new skills. Past workshops have included basic fishing, beginning shotgun, kayaking, map and compass, wildlife tracking, archery, nature photography, fly tying, game cooking, and edible plants. Workshop notices are posted at [mass.gov/dfw/bow](http://mass.gov/dfw/bow). For more information, call (508) 389-6305.

## HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Provides courses in the safe handling of firearms, and other outdoor activities related to hunting and firearm use. Designed for novices, courses in Basic Hunter Education, Bowhunter Education, Trapper Education, and others are offered statewide throughout the year. Certificates in certain courses satisfy hunting license requirements for Massachusetts as well as other states and Canadian provinces. For more information, call (508) 389-7820.

## MASSACHUSETTS JUNIOR CONSERVATION CAMP

This two-week residential program, held in August for boys and girls ages 13–17, provides a solid grounding in outdoor skills. Participants learn about fisheries, wildlife, forestry, and camping, and become proficient in the use of shotgun, rifle, archery equipment, map and compass, and more. Participants complete Basic Hunter Education and Boat Safety programs. For more information, call (508) 389-6300, or go to [juniorconservationcamp.org](http://juniorconservationcamp.org).

## YOUTH PHEASANT AND TURKEY HUNT

Designed for Hunter Education graduates 12–17 years of age, these programs are supported by the Division and are conducted by sporting clubs across the state. This program includes instruction on firearms safety in the field, hunting ethics, regulations, and game preparation, as well as supervised



Photo © Bill Byrne

shooting practice. The program culminates in a supervised hunt under the guidance of an experienced adult hunter. The youth pheasant hunts are conducted on one of the six Saturdays prior to the start of the regular pheasant season. The youth turkey hunt, developed through a partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation, allows for a mentored hunt. After completion of a pre-hunt workshop, a special permit is issued that allows for a mentored hunt on the Saturday prior to the last Monday in April. This permit remains valid for the regular spring turkey season following the youth hunt date. All past participants **MUST** complete and mail in the past participant application which can be found at [mass.gov/dfw/pastparticipantapp](http://mass.gov/dfw/pastparticipantapp). To find a participating sporting club check MassWildlife website at [mass.gov/dfw/yaph](http://mass.gov/dfw/yaph) or [mass.gov/dfw/yath](http://mass.gov/dfw/yath), or call (508) 389-6305.

## THE MASSACHUSETTS OUTDOOR EXPOSITION

The Massachusetts Outdoor Expo (the Big MOE) is a 1-day, family-oriented event traditionally held on or near National Hunting and Fishing Day, on the last weekend in September in Sturbridge. It is designed to introduce children and adults to a variety of traditional outdoor activities, demonstrations and displays relating to hunting, fishing, trapping, water sports, nature observation, and shooting sports, with one-on-one and mentored instruction available. The Big MOE is organized by Facts about Wildlife and Nature Society (FAWNS), a non-profit conservation organization, in cooperation with MassWildlife, sporting clubs, and other conservation organizations. For more information, visit [FawnsExpo.com](http://FawnsExpo.com).

## EDUCATOR'S CORNER

### ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS

The National Archery in the Schools Program in Massachusetts is an archery program developed for educators to provide students in grades 4–12 with an exposure to a fun, alternative sport that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. Taught primarily by physical education teachers, the program also includes social studies, mathematics, and physics. This program is a partnership between MassWildlife, National Archery in the Schools, the Archery Trade Association, and local sporting groups. Training is provided by MassWildlife to educators. Schools may borrow archery kits for two weeks free of charge. Funding may be available for schools to buy a kit of their own. For more information, call (508) 389-6305.

### PROJECT WILD IN MASSACHUSETTS

A national program of wildlife education workshops designed for educators of a wide range of ages, from pre-school to high school. Hours spent may be used toward professional development or other continuing education credit. Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Wildlife Federation. For information on attending or hosting a workshop, call (508) 389-6310.

- **GROWING UP WILD:** Exploring Nature With Children (Ages 3–7 Years). This workshop is designed for early childhood educators with activities that build on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to

explore wildlife and the world around them. Educators experience a wide range of activities that provide a foundation for developing a child's positive impression about nature.

- **PROJECT WILD AND AQUATIC WILD** workshops are interdisciplinary, hands-on learning opportunities for educators of K-12 level students focusing on terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and ecosystems. The curriculums encourage problem-solving and decision-making skills concerning the environment. Scout leaders, youth group leaders, homeschoolers, and both formal and non-formal educators find the materials and workshop valuable.
- **FLYING WILD** is a whole-school approach to environmental education using birds as the focus. Targeted for the middle-school level audience, though widely adaptable, Flying WILD offers practical, hands-on classroom and outdoor field-investigation experiences connecting real-world experiences in bird biology, conservation, and natural history. Project-based classroom applications, service learning, and community involvement are encouraged.

### NORTH AMERICAN CONSERVATION EDUCATION STRATEGY RESOURCES

An array of tools and resources developed by state fish and wildlife agencies support conservation educators who offer fish and wildlife-based programs that guide students



Photo © Bill Byrne

in grades K-12 on their way to becoming involved, responsible, conservation minded citizens. The strategy resources deliver unified, research-based Core Concepts and messages about fish and wildlife conservation, translated into K-12 academic standards to shape students' environmental literacy, stewardship, and outdoor skills. Resources included in the tool kit include: landscape investigation, schoolyard biodiversity, field investigation, fostering outdoor observation skills, applying systems thinking, and much more. Download these free resources at [fishwildlife.org](http://fishwildlife.org); click on Focus Areas, then Conservation Education. For more information, call (508) 389-6310.

### JUNIOR DUCK STAMP

The Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) Conservation and Design Program; *Connecting Youth with Nature Through Science and Art* is a dynamic arts and science curriculum for educators designed to teach wetland habitat and waterfowl conservation to students in K-12. Using scientific and wildlife observation principles, the program helps students to visually communicate what they have learned by creating an entry to the state's JDS contest. Guidelines and curriculum for students, educators, homeschool, and non-formal groups designed to spark youth interest in habitat conservation through science, art, math, and technology can be downloaded at [www.fws.gov/juniorduck](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck). Co-sponsored by the USFWS and the Massachusetts Wildlife Federation with support from the Massachusetts Chapter of Ducks Unlimited. For more information, go to [mass.gov/dfw/jds](http://mass.gov/dfw/jds) or call (508) 389-6310.

The colored pencil drawing of a Canada Goose by Carol Liu was selected as the state's Best of Show in the 2016 Junior Duck Stamp Program.





# MassWildlife Publication Order Form

## PRINTED MATERIALS

	PRICE	QUANTITY
BioMap 2 Report*	\$2.50	_____
Birds of Massachusetts: A Check-list*	\$2.50	_____
Critters of Massachusetts	\$5.00	_____
Field Guide to Animals of Vernal Pools	\$12.00	_____
Field Guide to MA Dragonflies & Damselflies	\$20.00	_____
Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Massachusetts	\$10.00	_____
Field Guide to MA Reptiles	\$3.00	_____
Guide to Invasive Plants in MA	\$5.00	_____
Massachusetts Homeowner's Guide to Bats*	\$2.50	_____
Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas 13th Edition, Individual Town Map	\$25.00	_____
Massachusetts Wildlife Magazine (4 issues)	\$6.00	_____
Massachusetts Wildlife Magazine (8 issues)	\$10.00	_____

## CDS, DVDS

An Introduction to the Threatened Turtles of Massachusetts: Why They Need our Help (DVD)	\$5.00	_____
Vascular Plants of Massachusetts: A County Checklist, First Revision (CD)	\$5.00	_____

## POSTERS

BioMap 2 Poster*	\$2.50	_____
Turtles of Massachusetts*	\$2.50	_____
Vernal Pool Life: A Race Against Dryness*	\$2.50	_____

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Some items are available at a discount if purchased in bulk or if you are an educator. Items denoted with an \* are free of charge if picked up at a MassWildlife office. Please call (508) 389-6300 to ensure availability and for special bulk/educator pricing. Allow 7-10 days for delivery.

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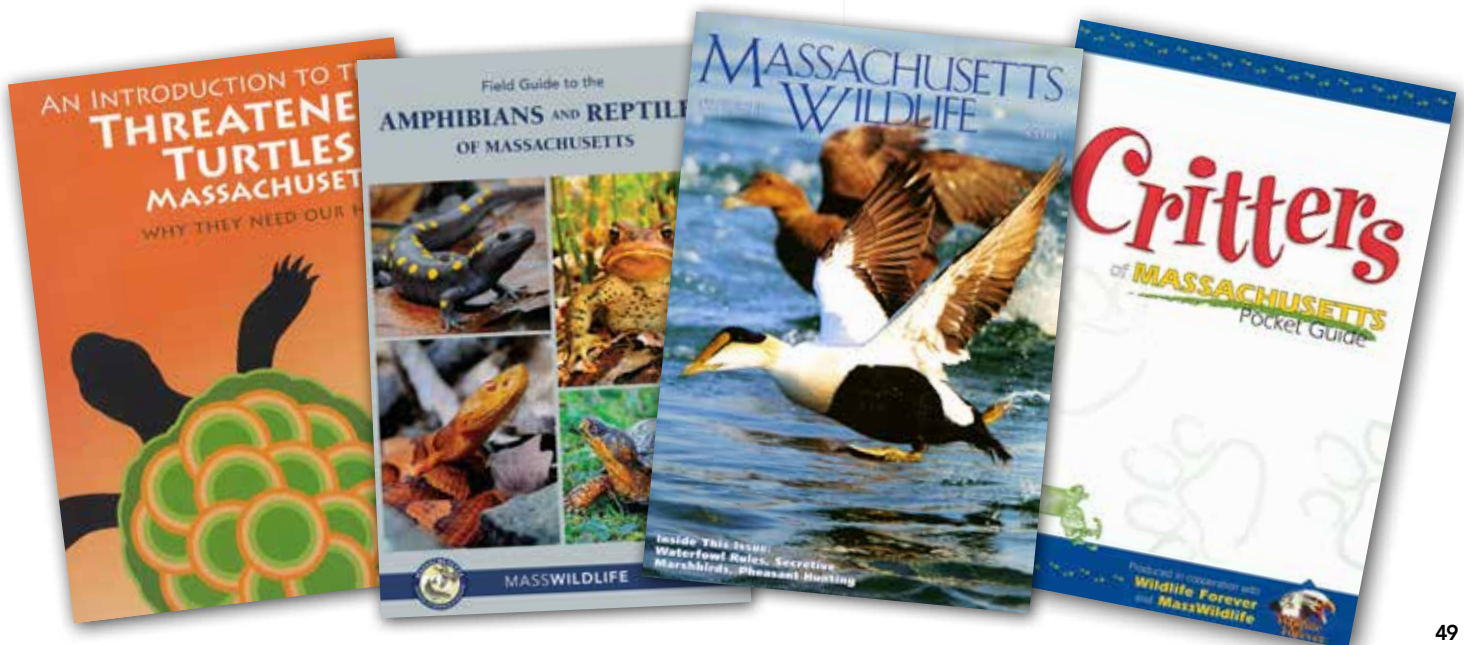
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## SUMMARY OF HUNTING SEASON DATES

For further information regarding specific bag, possession, and season limits please visit the pages noted in the table below. No hunting on Sunday.



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		OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)
BLACK BEAR		SEE PAGE 31 FOR BAG LIMITS
Black Bear (Big Game)	Zones 1–14	Sept. 5 – Sept. 23
		Nov. 6 – Nov. 25
		Nov. 27 – Dec. 9
UPLAND GAME BIRDS*		SEE PAGE 32 FOR BAG LIMITS
Wild Turkey (Big Game)	Spring: Zones 1–13	April 24 – May 20
	Fall: Zones 1–13	Oct. 23 – Nov. 4
	Youth Hunt: Zones 1–13	April 22 (special restrictions apply**)
Crow	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – April 10 July 1 – April 10, 2018
Pheasant	Zones 1–14	Oct. 14 – Nov. 25
	Youth Hunt	See page 47.
Quail	Zones 11–14	Oct. 14 – Nov. 25
Ruffed Grouse	Zones 1–14	Oct. 14 – Nov. 25

\* Upland game bird hunting is closed during shotgun deer season. Migratory game birds (includes waterfowl, woodcock, snipe, rails): Seasons and bag limits set annually. For Migratory Game Bird Regulations see pages 34-35.

\*\* Must have completed the youth turkey hunt program (page 47).

<b>DEER</b>		SEE PAGE 36 FOR BAG LIMITS
Deer (Big Game)	Youth Deer Hunt	Sept. 30
	Paraplegic Hunt	Nov. 3 – Nov. 5
	Archery	Oct. 16 – Nov. 25
	Shotgun	Nov. 27 – Dec. 9
	Primitive Firearms	Dec. 11 – Dec. 30

<b>RABBITS &amp; SQUIRRELS</b>		SEE PAGE 40 FOR BAG LIMITS
Cottontail Rabbit	Zones 1-12	Jan. 2 – Feb. 28 Oct. 14 – Feb. 28, 2018
	Zones 13 and 14	Jan. 2 – Feb. 28 Nov. 15 – Feb. 28, 2018
Snowshoe Hare	Zones 1-4	Jan. 2 – Feb. 28 Oct. 14 – Feb. 28, 2018
	Zones 5-12	Jan. 2 – Feb. 4 Oct. 14 – Feb. 5, 2018
	Zones 13 and 14	Jan. 2 – Feb. 4 Nov. 15 – Feb. 5, 2018
	Zone 14	Nov. 15 – Dec. 30
Jackrabbit	Zone 14	Nov. 15 – Dec. 30
Gray Squirrel	Zones 1-9	Sept. 11 – Jan. 2, 2018
	Zones 10-14	Oct. 14 – Jan. 2, 2018

Rabbit, jackrabbit, hare, and squirrel hunting are closed during shotgun deer season.

<b>FURBEARERS</b>		SEE PAGE 42 FOR BAG LIMITS
Bobcat	Zones 1-8	Jan. 2 – Mar. 8 Dec. 20 – Mar. 8, 2018
		Jan. 2 – Mar. 8 Oct. 14 – Mar. 8, 2018
Coyote	Zones 1-14	Jan. 2 – Feb. 28 Nov. 1 – Feb. 28, 2018
Fox (red or gray)	Zones 1-14	Jan. 2 – Jan. 31 Oct. 2 – Jan. 31, 2018
Raccoon	Zones 1-14	Jan. 2 – Jan. 31 Oct. 2 – Jan. 31, 2018
Opossum	Zones 1-14	Jan. 2 – Jan. 31 Oct. 2 – Jan. 31, 2018

All furbearer hunting seasons are closed during shotgun deer season except for coyotes. Special restrictions apply. See page 42.



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